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PREMIERE ISSUE

Volume 1, Issue 1
Dec. 2007 - Jan. 2008

ORLANDO

Attractions

M A G A Z I N E

Epcot turns

Celebrate
the milestone
anniversary
with a look at
the popular
theme park's past and future.

25

Disney's Haunted Mansion
welcomes new
residents in a
"re-haunting"



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Letters



Dedication

To all who read this magazine: welcome. *Orlando Attractions Magazine* is your magazine. Here all relive fond memories of vacations past and here all may look to the promise of Orlando's future. *Orlando Attractions Magazine* is dedicated to the fun, excitement, and unique experiences that have formed the world's best vacation destination. Most of all, this magazine is dedicated to you, the Orlando fan, without whom the city we call home would be little more than orange groves.

Ricky & Matt

Ricky Brigante and Matt Roseboom
Publishers and Orlando Fans

LONG-TIME LISTENER, FIRST-TIME READER

As a long-time listener of the Inside the Magic Disney podcast, I'd like to congratulate you on your first edition of *Orlando Attractions Magazine*. I wish you much success with your venture. I haven't subscribed to a magazine for years, but I'll definitely be a charter member for this one. How long has this been in the works?

Brian Spencer
Owatonna, Minn.

We've been working on the magazine since last April. It's been a long process and we hope you enjoy the outcome.

AWESOME COVERAGE

Congratulations on your new venture. I wish you the best of luck with it. I'm looking forward to the awesome coverage of the area's attrac-

tions that I know you'll be bringing us.

Gordon Free
Freeland, Wash.

GAP IN THE MARKET

I miss the *Disney Magazine* so much. Anything that can fill that gap is more than welcome and to have news and stuff on the other attractions – a brilliant idea. There is a gap in the market and I am sincerely hoping that *Orlando Attractions* can fill it.

Geoff Salt
Harrow, London, U.K.

FUN IN THE SUN

Will there be a swimsuit issue?

Joey Ellis
Charlotte, N.C.

Hmm, how about The Wet & Wild Girls and Guys of Typhoon Lagoon steam up Blizzard Beach?

3, 2, 1 ...

Here is a cool accidental picture I took. It would be great as a magazine "launch" pic, however I would much rather have a picture of Horizons. Congrats on the magazine. I will be subscribing.

Wayne Grant
Meridian, Miss.



HIDDEN MICKEY

I can't wait to open the mailbox and find my first issue! I'm very excited to see all of the great stuff you have planned. How about something similar to the hidden Mickey section from the now extinct *Disney Magazine*. We always enjoy searching for hidden Mickeys wherever we go.

Chris Long
Greeley, Colo.

Look for an article by Steve Barrett, author of Hidden Mickeys: a Field Guide to Disney's Best Kept Secrets in an upcoming issue.

FIRST PRIZE

We were the first people to get a "dream" on the first day of year of a million dreams (Oct. 1, 2006). We received dream Mickey ears when we were going on Primeval Whirl.

Jamie Harden
Staten Island, N.Y.



Congratulations. Check out our Photo Finds (pages 16-17) to see the first family to win a prize on the one-year anniversary of your win.

BOUNDARIES

So I was just wondering where the boundary for "Orlando Area" is. I really look forward to this magazine. My congrats go out to you for following your dream and being willing to dedicate yourself to it. I wish you every success in the venture. While the Internet is good, there is something to be said about

actual print. And the more detailed and in-depth stories that can be achieved will be really welcome in this household.

Louise Belmer
Sydney, NSW, Australia

Although we have Orlando in our name and as our main focus, we'll also be covering the surrounding area, including Busch Gardens and Kennedy Space Center.

FINE DECOR

The magazine sounds very exciting. It will be a nice addition to my coffee table. I know the layout is going to be gorgeous. Best of luck to you all.

Greg Lege
Houston, Texas

REMEMBER WHEN...

Here's a photo of me in 1983 at the Imagination Pavilion. We had gone as guests of Kodak. All I wanted to do was talk to the purple dinosaur! Can you believe I closed my eyes? The other thing that I remember was going up into the Kodak lounge inside the pavilion. I was so impressed.

Matthew Wilhite
Ocoee, Fla.



LOOKS TOO GOOD TO EAT

This is from my recent Disney Wedding. We even have small hidden Mickeys on the cake.

Chris Wilson
Dundas, Ontario, Canada



TREE TOPPER

Walt Disney puts the star on top of the Magic Kingdom's 2006 Christmas tree. The Magic Kingdom tree was located outside of Tomorrowland until the filming for the Christmas Parade was completed. You almost have to lay on the ground to get this shot.

Scott Morris
Kokomo, Ind.



Great shot. We love taking great pictures at the parks and we're not afraid to look silly doing it.

UNIVERSAL APPEAL



I was at Universal Studios yesterday, and started my day out at Islands of Adventure. First we got in the singles line for Spiderman, which was much longer than usual. When we got to the front of the line, the employee at the head of the singles line waves me forward, I head over to him and he proceeds to hold an arm out in front of me and literally yells "go back!" in an unfriendly tone. I understand that it was an unusually hectic day since it was Rock the Universe, but I still expect better from even a Universal Employee. We decided to head over to the Studios since Islands was so crowded. We immediately proceed to Revenge of the Mummy. There, while waiting in the singles line again, which was slightly long due to only one side of the loading area being used, there was a very friendly employee who I would give the privilege of calling a cast member. She was upbeat, and having fun with her Skull topped height stick at the line merge point, scaring people with it, being talkative, and adding to the experience of the attraction. It just goes to show the difference between a regular employee and what Disney looks for, a cast member, not someone who just shows up to work for money, but shows up to have fun. This is why people remember Disney, and why it has the reputation it does.

Kurt Nelson
Winter Park, Fla.

MORE UNIVERSAL APPEAL

I've read (and heard) a lot about the "bad" employees at Universal. Like any service/entertainment based company, much of what you get is highly influenced by what you bring to the table with you, either as the entertainer or as the audience. I worked at Universal as a pass seller for one summer and I loved it. Yes, I will admit that I had many co-workers who did not enjoy their jobs, especially the ones for whom this was their full-time, year-round employment. I also ran into people who loved their jobs. I was one of them. The main reason I loved my job was the great level of empowerment I had as an employee. I don't know if they still do this at Universal (I worked there in 1999), but it was exhilarating. We were trained to be as accommodating to the guests as we could. Lost a stuffed Barney? Ask anyone wearing a name tag and they could get you a new one, no charge. Need directions? Just ask and you'd be guided to the attraction you were looking for. Any employee, no matter where they were working, was allowed to interact with guests anywhere in the park and encouraged to do so. I personally handed out ticket discounts left and right if I felt it would help out the guests. And I was never questioned about it, nor did I ever have to run it past a manager. It was left up to my discretion. I loved that! Then again, I came to the job with a positive attitude, wanting to help make someone's trip worthwhile. So what about the guest? Ask yourself what you bring to the parks with you. When you go to Disney, you expect "magic," right? So you're already in a good mood and you project this. When many die-hard Disney fans go to Universal, they

come with much lower expectations and they get what they're looking for. It's called the self-fulfilling prophecy. I am a Disney baby, but I had a great time at Universal too because I came with a positive attitude. I don't come to a vacation destination expecting to be spoiled and pampered, I come to take in the sites and fill my memory banks with positive memories. If I get a little extra attention or magic, wonderful, but as long as I'm not watching the clock and waiting for my commute home, I'll be thoroughly satisfied.

Christina Guardino
Panama City Beach, Fla.

FREEZE FRAME

September, 2006: I caught this standing in one of the best spots in Epcot to see Illuminations – on the balcony of the restaurant in Japan. You don't have to be a restaurant patron to enjoy this view, just walk up the stairs. There's never a crowd because no one either knows it's there or thinks they have to be patrons. It was my niece Andi's first time ever in the parks and we couldn't have asked for better. From that high up, you can also spot fireworks from the other parks that are going on simultaneously.

Kristi Petersen
Danbury, Conn.

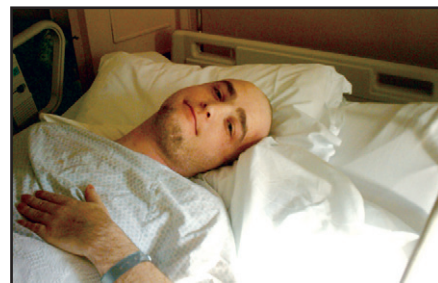


Thanks for the tip. We promise not to tell anyone... er, whoops.

DISNEY WORLD HERE I COME!

In October 2006 I was told I had cancer. This only two months before I was to leave for Walt Disney World. So I went through four months of treatment, and when it was all said and done I had won. So what do you do when you beat cancer – go to Walt Disney World of course. Here is a pic of me while in treatment and one after at Walt Disney World.

CJ Spence
Henderson, N.C.



CJ Spence and his fiancée, Tandra Cossey (not the blue alien).

Congratulations, CJ! May you have many more visits to Orlando.

Send us your letters and photos!

Simply head to our web site at:
www.attractionsmagazine.com

For letters and photos, be sure to include your first and last name and your city and state.

When sending photos, please send high-resolution files with as much information about them as possible.



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Vacation Planner

NOVEMBER

1 - 11 Epcot International Food & Wine Festival and Eat to the Beat Concert Series. **Jon Secada:** Nov. 1 to 3. **Chubby Checker and the Wildcats:** Nov. 4 to 6. **The Contours featuring Sylvester Potts:** Nov. 7 and 8. **David Sanborn:** Nov. 9 to 11.

2 Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween Party, 7 p.m. to 12 a.m.

3 World Space Expo at Kennedy Space Center through the 11th. **SHOUTfest Battle of the Bands** at Cypress Gardens.

9 Festival of the Masters at Downtown Disney, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. through the 11th.

10 A Taste of Celebration, Celebration, Fla., 5 to 11 p.m. **ABC Super Soap Weekend** at Disney-MGM Studios through the 11th. **Jack Hanna Weekend** at SeaWorld, 12 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

12 Mickey's Jingle Jungle Holiday Parade at Disney's Animal Kingdom, **The Osborne Family Spectacle of Dancing Lights** at Disney-MGM Studios, and the **Festival of the Seasons** at Downtown Disney. **Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party** at the Magic Kingdom, 7 p.m. to 12 a.m., also on **15, 16, 25, 27, 29, 30** and **Dec. 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21.**

16 Jack Hanna Weekend at Busch Gardens, 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Runs through the 18th. **Old Fashioned Christmas** (below) at Cypress Gardens through **Dec. 30.**



17 Big Easy Casino Night at the Central Florida Zoo, 6 to 10 p.m.

19 ICE! at Gaylord Palms nightly through **Jan. 3.**



23 Holiday Harbor Nights Wine Tasting & Jazz at The Portofino Bay Hotel at Universal Orlando. **Epcot Holidays Around The World and Candlelight Processional.** Runs nightly through **Dec. 30.** Celebrity Narrators include: **David Robinson, John O'Hurley, Neil Patrick Harris, Dennis Franz, Monique Coleman, Steven Curtis Chapman, Chita Rivera, Andie MacDowell, Kirk Cameron, Edward James Olmos, Gary Sinise, Rita Moreno, Marlee Matlin.** For specific dates, check Disney.com.

DECEMBER

1 Now Snowing, Celebration, Fla. Town Center, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Nightly through **Dec. 30.**

7 Enjoy Grinchmas at Universal's Islands of Adventure and **Macy's Holiday Parade** (below) at Universal Studios. Daily through **Jan. 1.**



15 Breakfast With Santa at the Central Florida Zoo. Breakfast: 8 a.m.; Brunch: 11:30 a.m. **It's All About Doo Wop** concert at Cypress Gardens.

26 Baywave, Jazz By The Bay at

SeaWorld. Daily through the **30th.**

31 Pleasure Island **New Year's Eve Party.** Atlantic Dance Hall **New Year's Eve** at Disney's Boardwalk. **New Year's Eve parties** at Celebration, Fla. SeaWorld, and Universal CityWalk.

JANUARY

6 A Tribute to Elvis Show at the Osceola Center for the Arts.

10 Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus at the Amway Arena. Runs through the **13th.**

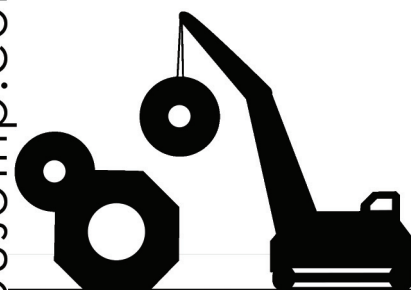
21 Pirate and Princess Parties return to the Magic Kingdom. Also on 26 and 29.

TBA SeaWorld's Bud & BBQ. Visit SeaWorld.com for exact dates.

All events and dates are subject to change. Please check with the proper organization before attending.

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Work in Progress ?

Bash partying its way to Orlando

LOCATION: DISNEY-MGM STUDIOS

A new parade will be hitting the Disney-MGM Studios (soon to be Disney's Hollywood Studios) in 2008. It's called the Block Party Bash and it will move from Disney's California Adventure. The Disney Stars and Motor Cars parade will be heading overseas to Paris.



■ STATUS: IN THE WORKS

The Wizarding World of Harry Potter

LOCATION: ISLANDS OF ADVENTURE



■ STATUS: IN THE WORKS

SeaWorld's Getting Even Wetter

LOCATION: SEAWORLD ORLANDO



SeaWorld's latest addition, a water park called Aquatica, is beginning to take shape, visible from nearby towers and highways. For more on Aquatica, including concept art and construction photos, see pages 26-27 of this issue.

■ STATUS: COMING SOON

The Lost Continent, a land at Islands of Adventure, will soon begin its transformation into the "The Wizarding World of Harry Potter," which is being billed as "a theme park within a theme park." It hasn't yet been announced how much of The Lost Continent will be taken over by Harry Potter, but it is likely to completely change one of the most elaborately themed lands in the park. Current rumor has it that the popular Dueling Dragons coaster, featuring two intertwining tracks called Fire and Ice, will be rethemed to fit with the Potter theme. The rest of the land will include shops, restaurants, and other familiar buildings from the series of popular films. Potter fans can also look forward to a brand new attraction that will bring guests face-to-face with magic and characters from the Potter films. The new land is set to open in late 2009.



More Dinos

LOCATION: DOWNTOWN DISNEY

■ STATUS: COMING SOON

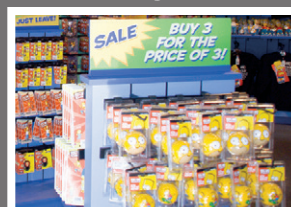
From the makers of the Rainforest Cafe comes a prehistoric restaurant called T-Rex. Look for it in 2008.



Thank you, come again

LOCATION: UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

■ STATUS: ONGOING



Apu and his Kwik-E-Mart team have expanded out of Springfield into the old Back to the Future store as part of the arrival of The Simpsons in Universal Studios.

Toy Story Mania

LOCATION: DISNEY-MGM STUDIOS

The former Mickey Ave. at the Disney-MGM Studios is now walled off to become Pixar Place, home to the upcoming 3-D interactive attraction, Toy Story Mania, due to open in Spring of 2008. New carnival barker-type signs (like the one above) have appeared on the construction walls, giving curious park guests a clue as to what's going on inside.



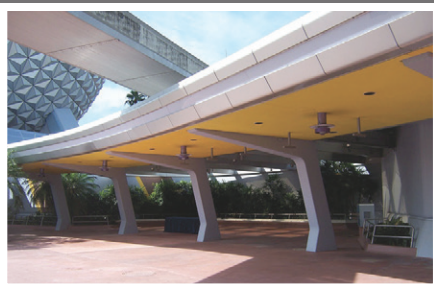
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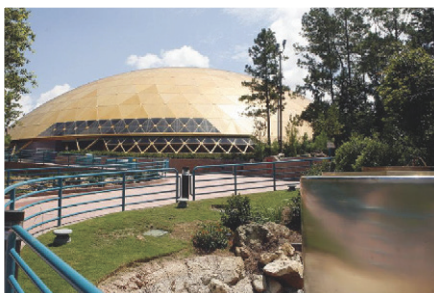
Demolition Derby

LOCATION: EPCOT

■ STATUS:
IN PROGRESS



Leave a Legacy sales booths have been removed from Epcot's entrance area as the tiles are no longer for sale.



Wonders of Life signs were taken down, leaving little hope of riding Body Wars ever again.

Clear for Launch?

LOCATION: MAGIC KINGDOM

■ STATUS:
STRONG RUMOR

Space Mountain is rumored to be getting a complete makeover with all new effects and the addition of space-age music. It is likely to close for several months in 2008.



New Accommodations

LOCATION:
LAKE BUENA VISTA

■ STATUS:
COMPLETE

The Grosvenor Resort has finished a \$25 million renovation and has been given a brand new name: Regal Sun Resort.



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On FIRE

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The Simpsons Ride

Despite a lack of details about the upcoming ride, The Simpsons are making their presence known at the park as opening day nears. Between character-filled construction walls and a new Kwik-E-Mart (see "Work In Progress," page 12), The Simpsons are the hottest new trend at Universal Studios. Expect much more out of them to emerge over the next year.

Jaws Photos

Yes, we know this isn't the latest trend... but it's a trend that will never go away. Nothing tops your fishing buddy's "catch of the day" photo better than one of you getting your head bitten off by a great white.



Dark Ride Flash Photos

This is one trend that needs to go. Everyone's done it one time or another. Now that it's out of your system, quit it! Blinding your family while flying through Bikini Bottom is just not fun.

Back to the Future

Despite the removal of the classic attraction, it's still fun to get your picture taken with Marty and Doc. We have a feeling that this pair, along with their iconic DeLorean, won't turn into a thing of the past.



Think you know what's hot?

Send us your picks and pictures telling us about the latest theme park trends: trendtracker@attractionsmagazine.com



Get refreshed at Roboasis

The big Coke display near *Men In Black: Alien Attack* gives a break from the heat. Since the Orlando area really only has two seasons (hot and really hot), rehydrating here is a welcome treat year-round.



Fake space shuttle

Interest in NASA is growing and it's cool to get your picture with a fake space shuttle, but visiting Kennedy Space Center for the real thing is even better.

cooled off

This one's all but melted.



Universal 360

The summer has ended and so have the summer shows at Universal. Since they showed up at Halloween Horror Nights, this likely won't be the last time we see the inflate-o-screens.



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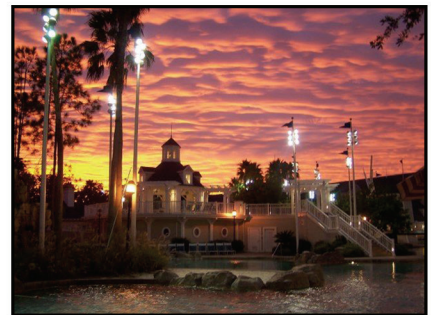
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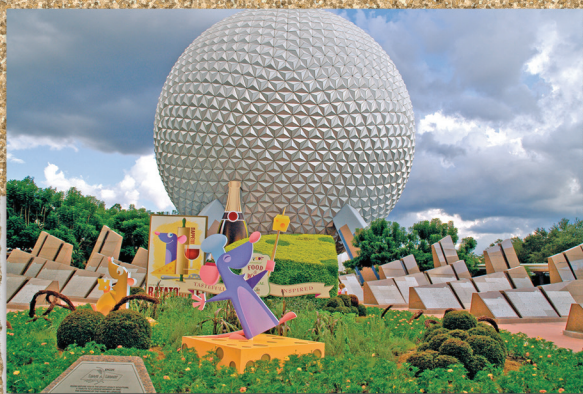
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Photo Finds

Orlando is filled with fun things to see, and our photographers are there to capture it all.



The Doodlebops entertain kids at Disney-MGM Studios. Each weekend from the end of August through October, concerts were presented for children at the Coaster Courtyard Concert Stage behind the Rock 'n' Roller Coaster.



Epcot held its 12th annual **Food & Wine Festival** from Sept. 28 to Nov. 11. Newly represented this year were Oklahoma, Peru and the Dominican Republic.



The Pepper family from Winston Salem, N.C. pose with Disney Dream Squad members. The family was chosen as the family of the day on Oct. 1 at Epcot's 25th anniversary. It was also the one-year anniversary for the Dream Squad.



The crew of the Space Shuttle Endeavour speaks to guests at Epcot's Mission: Space. On Sept. 10, Epcot celebrated NASA "Space Day". The crew also unveiled a new plaque outside Mission: Space in honor of Barbara Morgan, teacher and mission specialist.

"Leaves" fall to the street during the first **Ocktoberfest in Celebration, Fla.** on Oct. 12 & 13. Look for "snow flurries" nightly in December.





Halloween Horror Nights guests at Universal Studios could see the **Back To The Future III train** while visiting some of the haunted houses located in a normally backstage area.

High School Musical 2: School's Out performs daily at the Disney-MGM Studios with all new songs and dance moves.



The **Jedi Training Academy** at the Disney-MGM Studios now has a permanent home next to Star Tours. The show allows young guests to "feel the force" while learning the art of wielding a light saber.



The Simpsons are making daily appearances at Universal Studios in promotion of their upcoming ride. Appearing at various times at the front of the park are Marge, Homer, Bart and Lisa (look for Maggie soon).



The Muppet Mobile Lab rolled through Epcot daily for a couple of weeks in August, interacting with guests as part of a test of Walt Disney Imagineering's "Living Character Initiative."



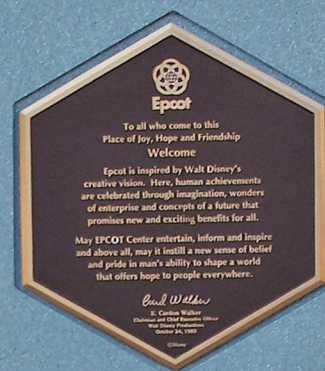
ANNIVERSARY 1982-2007

ABOVE: In honor of Epcot's 25th anniversary, Disney designers created a special logo for use on signs and merchandise.

RIGHT: Greeting guests as they approach Epcot is a special plaque containing the dedication read by then-Chairman and CEO of The Walt Disney Company, E. Cardon Walker, at the park's opening ceremony.

FAR RIGHT: Spaceship Earth has served as Epcot's icon since its opening in 1982.

Epcot 25

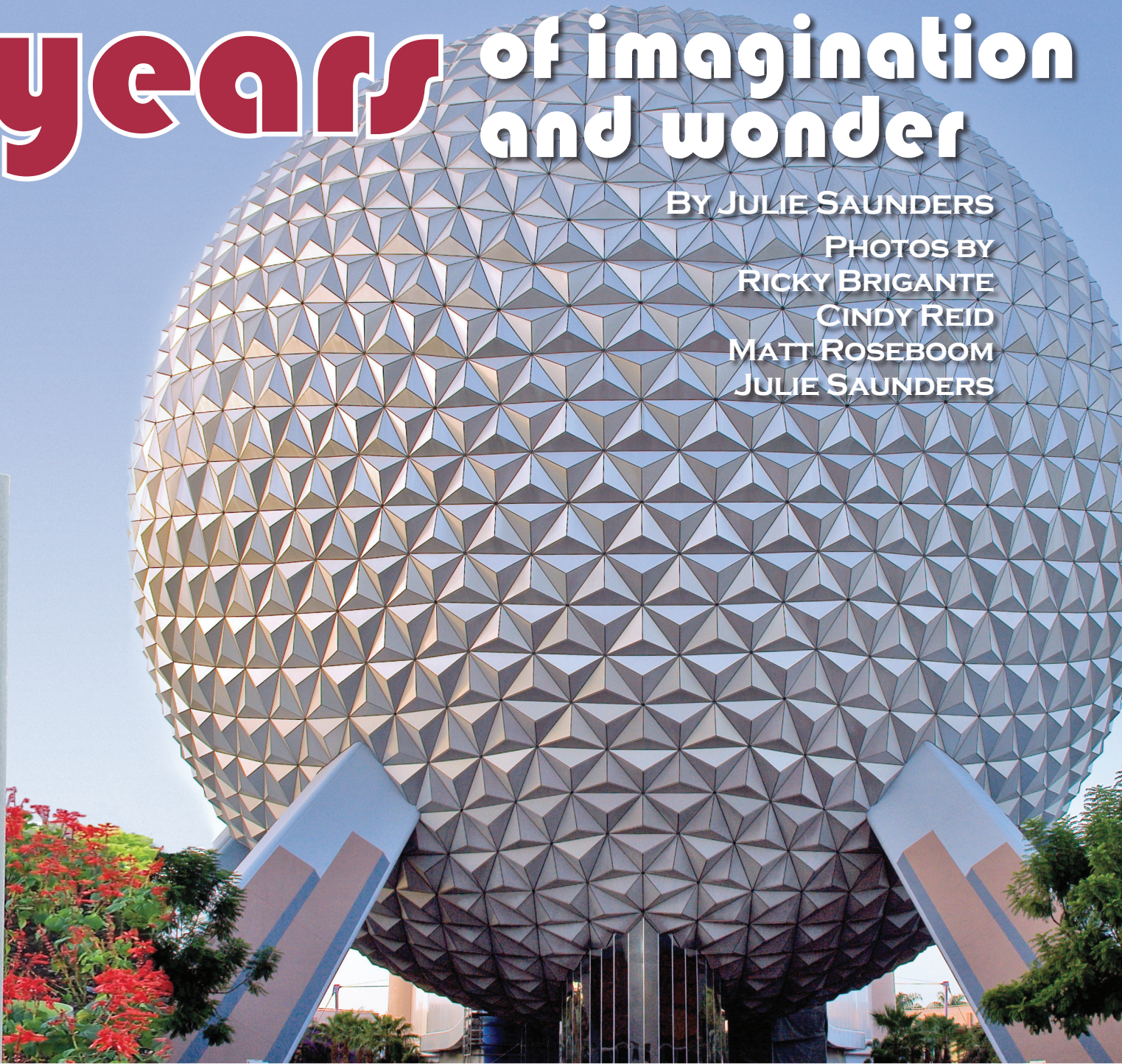


Epcot

Celebrates years of imagination and wonder

BY JULIE SAUNDERS

PHOTOS BY
RICKY BRIGANTE
CINDY REID
MATT ROSEBOOM
JULIE SAUNDERS



Often referred to as “Walt’s final dream,” Epcot celebrated its 25th anniversary on Oct. 1. Originally opening to the public on Oct. 1, 1982 as Epcot Center, the second of the Walt Disney World Florida theme parks wasn’t supposed to be a theme park at all, but a

city where people would live and work along-side the latest technologies in an Experimental Prototype Community Of Tomorrow (EPCOT).

With the untimely death of Walt Disney in 1966, his executive staff turned to the Epcot Center creative development manager, Marty Sklar, for direction on

delivering Walt’s dream. Sklar, originally hired as a writer, had been promoted to vice president of concepts / planning and had written a 40-page document upon Walt Disney’s death; Walt Disney World Background and Philosophy, as an aid for employees to deliver Walt’s vision for his “Florida Project.”

Although an amazing, shiny-new theme park replaced Walt Disney's plan for an ultra-modern community, similarities exist between Disney's vision and the translation that is Epcot. When asked what he thought Walt Disney would say if he visited Epcot today, Sklar quipped, "What took you so long?" adding, "I think that he would be enormously proud of what we are doing at the parks worldwide. He loved to change and add things. He always wanted to improve and know what we could do. What a stimulus that was to people with ideas."

The Backstory

With the success of Disneyland in California came the unwelcomed sprawl of diners and motels which obscured the otherwise pristine approach to Disney's first theme park. Displeased, Disney resolved not to be encroached upon again should he decide to develop similar enterprises. Uncertain if an East Coast version of Disneyland would be embraced by the public, Disney jumped at the chance to develop four attractions for the 1964-65 New York World's Fair. In addition to the opportunity to test his entertainments on new audiences, Disney was eager to engage forward-thinking corporations who were advancing new technologies.

The four attractions developed for the New York World's Fair were: Great Moments with Mr. Lincoln, sponsored by the state of Illinois, Progressland (renamed Walt Disney's Carousel of Progress when relocated to Disneyland) for General Electric, International Gardens, Magic Skyway and Fields of Science for the Ford Motor Company, and a last-minute addition, developed in only nine months; it's a small world, for Pepsi-Cola in support of UNICEF. Each was an overwhelming success, generating the longest lines and the most visitors through the duration of the fair. Armed with these successes and new relationships formed with corporations willing to sponsor Disney, 43 acres of Central Florida was purchased during 1964-65 for what was originally dubbed, Project X.



Imagineering Ambassador, Marty Sklar.

World's fairs were in vogue when Disney was developing his concepts for Disney World, featuring Epcot Center. Building upon his success at the New York World's Fair, designs for Future World focused on dark rides utilizing OmniMover tracks. Mechanics aside, each attraction included an educational message while telling an entertaining story. The combination of education and entertainment coined a new phrase; edutainment.

Ever inquisitive about how things worked, Walt Disney studied transportation and urban planning. George McGinnis, Imagineer from 1966 to 2002, explains, "To understand the origins of Walt Disney's Epcot plan, one must learn of the man who had a great deal of influence on Walt. He [Disney] read architect Victor Gruen's *The Heart of Our Cities: The Urban Crisis: Diagnosis and Cure*

(1964). Gruen, called the father of the enclosed shopping mall, was a proponent of separating the pedestrian from the automobile."

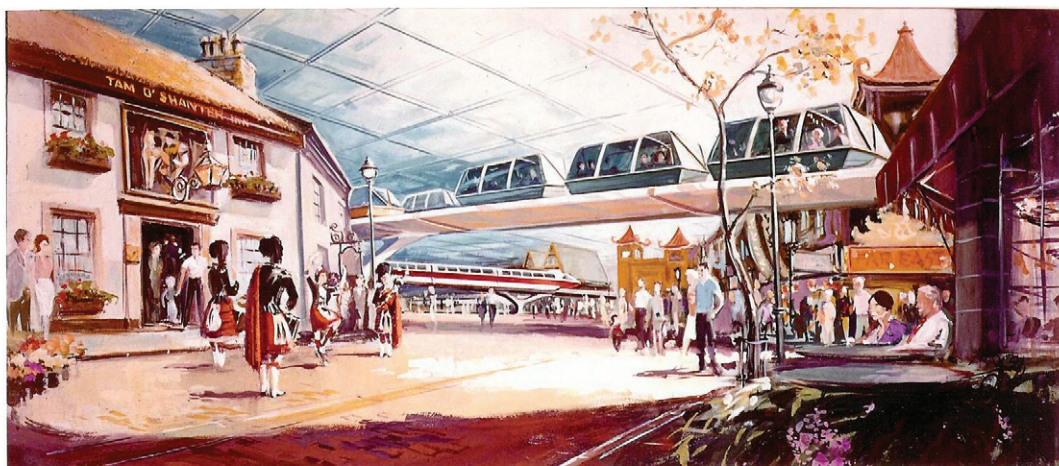
Walt Disney was convinced that a new design for urban living was the key to the future and encouraged his Imagineers to design innovative concepts for modern living in Epcot. One model can be seen as the Tomorrowland Transit Authority

Walt's Dream vs. Today's Reality



Although not a traditional city, aspects of Disney's dream for Epcot are evident around Walt Disney World.

- **Electronic transportation:** Tomorrowland Transit Authority and Monorail system
- **Transportation hub:** Transportation and Ticket center
- **Entertainment:** Theme parks, Downtown Disney West Side
- **Shopping:** World Showcase, Downtown Disney Marketplace
- **Nightlife:** Pleasure Island
- **Recreation:** Theme parks, water parks, water sports, golf, spas
- **Athletics:** Disney's Wide-World of Sports complex
- **Education:** Disney Institute & Celebration school
- **Employment:** Walt Disney World employs 60,000 cast members
- **Housing:** 23 resorts where guests sleep nightly, cast member housing and town of Celebration



BY GEORGE MCGINNIS
1966
FOR WALT'S EPCOT PRESENTATION

1966 George McGinnis concept artwork for Epcot transportation and housing.

in the Magic Kingdom. The “Center” was added to reinforce that the plans for Epcot were central to everything that would be developed within the 43 square miles at Disney World in Florida. Upon his brother’s death, Roy O. Disney renamed the Florida project Walt Disney World, so that people would always know that it was Walt’s dream.

Fast Forward

It took 15 years and 19 designs to complete Epcot Center. Obstacles prevented all attractions from opening on time. Especially vexing were the ride vehicles for Journey Into Imagination – which were experiencing computer problems – delaying opening until March 5, 1983, and Horizons which opened exactly one year after Epcot Center on Oct. 1, 1983.



Figment and a Dream Finder costume from Journey Into Imagination, on display at a Cast Member party at Epcot.

Open on time, but nonetheless challenging was the circle-vision 360 film, Wonders of China (1982 to 2003). Filming occurred in the late ‘70s – when China was still closed to the world. The Chinese government refused permission to fly camera planes over the country, fearing military installations would be revealed. As a compromise, Chinese pilots filmed their country and the films were reviewed and approved by the Chinese government before being released to Disney officials.

During his seminars on Epcot’s 25th anniversary, Marty Sklar shared presentations made to other countries in attempts to attract them to sponsoring



Epcot Center in early construction. It took nearly 3,000 designers and 4,000 construction workers to build the first phase of Epcot.

a World Showcase site. Concept art was shown for show buildings, attractions and entertainments for Costa Rica, Israel, Africa, Iran and Denmark. The closest to making an appearance in World Showcase was Iran. A deal had been struck with Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi in 1979, who was overthrown two weeks later by Ayatollah Khomeini.

Although Epcot is not an actual city, it embodies the essence of Walt Disney’s dream as a community of sorts where people work and play, monorails cruise overhead, new technologies are showcased and the world comes together in the 1.2-mile promenade around World Showcase. It could even be argued that the enclosed and environmentally controlled gardens in The Land at Epcot represent Disney’s desire to enclose Epcot Center in a dome.

The 21st Century Begins

After Epcot Center opened to the public, official dedication and festivities occurred three weeks later on Oct. 24, 1982. A television special, hosted by actor-singer-comic Danny Kaye, which aired on Oct. 23, helped to get the word out and generate interest in Epcot Center.

Dedication day dawned cloudy, cold and rainy. The grand opening dedication ceremony included performances by the West Point Glee Club, 450-piece All-American College marching band, the grand opening orchestra and performers. Donn Tatum, chairman of the executive committee gave the official welcome and the World Showcase festival performers

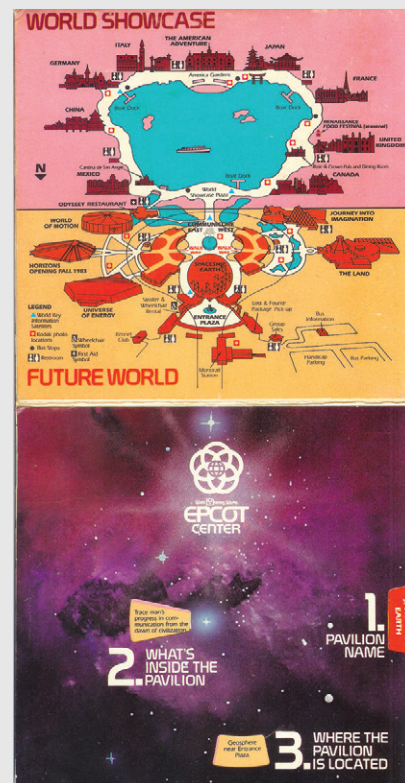
entered to the World Showcase March, written by brothers Richard M. and Robert B. Sherman.

The dedication was delivered by Disney chairman of the board and chief executive officer, E. Cardon [Card] Walker

Guiding through Opening Day



Guests on Epcot Center’s opening day received special maps to help them find their way through the park.



followed by the international ceremony of the waters, in which a vessel of water from each World Showcase nation was poured into the Fountain of World Friendship. The festivities were capped off with a grand finale of an original composition, *We've Only Just Begun to Dream*. Walt Disney's widow, Lillian, attended the dedication, but did not speak publicly. The ceremony concluded with a precision fly-by of the Florida National Guard.

Present at the dedication were current Disney legends, Charlie Ridgway, now retired after 30 years in the Disney publicity department, and Marty Sklar, executive vice president and Imagineering Ambassador. Sklar, hired in 1956, has the added distinction of being the only active employee who has participated in the opening of all 11 Disney parks around the world.



Disney Legend & former publicist, Charlie Ridgway.

Sklar recently recalled dedication day. "It was raining so hard that you couldn't see the jets." Sklar indicated the conditions did little to dampen enthusiasm. "There were people there from all around the world, including corporate sponsors. The best thing was the excitement of the people, even though not everything was ready, namely Horizons and Journey Into

Epcot Fun Facts

- **The outer "skin" of Spaceship Earth** is made up of 11,324 aluminum and plastic-alloy triangles.
- **Mickey Mouse is hidden** in his own constellation just beyond Spaceship Earth's loading area.
- **Epcot had its soft opening** Sept. 28, 1982, from 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. for Disney's Cast Members and their families.

Imagination."

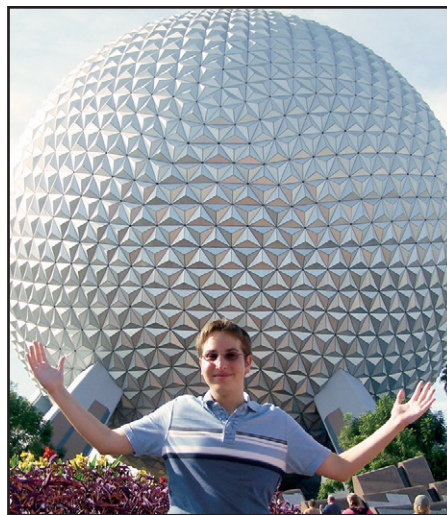
Regarding Epcot Center's dedication, Ridgway added, "The next day was World Showcase day and we had great entertainment, including the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The rain continued and many of the events had to be moved indoors. In the evening, the 450-piece All-American College Marching Band paraded from World Showcase to the entrance at 9 p.m. as a way of leading folks out. I remember looking back at the crowd following the marching band, and smiling, because they were all pumping their umbrellas up and down in time with the band."

Unity in the Community

This past January, then vice president of Epcot, Brad Rex, announced that celebrations surrounding Epcot's 25th anniversary would focus on cast members only. News spread like wildfire through the Internet

community and disappointed fans began chatting about holding their own celebrations. One such group, dubbed Celebration 25, began with "one little spark" by Jenn Waitt of Lynn, Mass. Asked why it was so important for her to celebrate Epcot's 25th anniversary, Waitt said, "Epcot is very positive and inspirational to me. It helps people see things in different ways and introduces concepts that people might not have the opportunity to see or experience."

Waitt's post on the WDWMagic.com Internet forum ignited more than a spark and was quickly picked up by Orlando high-school student Adam Roth. Word spread through the Internet community and 1,200 fans from six countries and 28 states, united by Celebration 25, attended Epcot's rededication on Oct. 1. "It's a great way to show Walt Disney World that there are a lot of people who have been deeply affected by Epcot," said Roth.



Celebration 25's Adam Roth at Epcot.



The night of Epcot's 25th anniversary brought weather similar to its opening day.

Additional Celebration 25 leaders and sponsors included Jason Diffendal of Pottstown, Penn., John Corigliano of Clearwater, Fla., Lou Mongello of Edison, N.J., Jeff Pepper of Winston Salem, N.C. and Matt Pezzula of Inverness, Fla.

Silver Lining

In May 2007 Jim MacPhee was promoted to vice president of Epcot. An original Epcot cast member and a 29-year Walt Disney World cast member, one of his first decisions was to expand Epcot's 25th anniversary celebration to include the public. "It's more than I imagined," said MacPhee when asked prior to the event if the Oct. 1 celebration was what he had envisioned. "When I came five months ago, the celebration was cast member

focused. Now we are doing some exciting things; from the retro guide maps to the Epcot gallery, and the rededication – which is very similar to the original dedication.” Regarding the lack of a traditional year-long celebration, MacPhee said, “The one-day celebration on Oct. 1 is an example of how each milestone will be celebrated differently for all parks going forward.”



Jim MacPhee surprised Celebration 25 attendees on Sept. 30 with an advance look at the one-day-only guide maps made for Epcot's 25th.

The rededication at 10:01 a.m. on Oct. 1 paid homage to the original 1982 dedication. Only missing were the musicians,

performers and celebrities. In a celebration led by cast members, Disney Ambassador Michael Kelly introduced the guest host, cast member Tracy Wuu. Pairs of cast members from Future World paraded through the throng to the Fountain Stage carrying standards for each pavilion: Imagination, The Land, The Seas with Nemo and Friends, Innoventions, Spaceship Earth, Universe of Energy, Mission: Space and Test Track.

Erin Wallace, senior vice president of operations for Walt Disney World Resort and Jim MacPhee spoke briefly, with MacPhee quoting Walt Disney: “You can dream, create, imagine and build the most wonderful place in the world, but it takes people to make the dream a reality.”

Mickey and Minnie Mouse escorted a smiling Marty Sklar to the podium. Sklar spoke about Walt Disney and shared a favorite quote: “You can educate people, but don’t tell them



Epcot fans swiftly rush in after the rope drop at 9 a.m. to obtain a prime viewing spot for the rededication ceremony. Many had been waiting for hours outside the turnstiles.

Just minutes before the ceremony began, a sea of excited park guests waited in anticipation.



Act fast before they're gone...

No Disney celebration would be complete without a wide array of limited edition merchandise and Epcot's 25th anniversary was no exception. Fans lined up outside Mouse Gear (below, left), Epcot's biggest Disney store, to purchase limited-edition trading pins, Figment plushes, and a special must-have t-shirt (below, right) featuring a recreation of a classic Epcot design. Some guests even missed the rededication ceremony to wait in line.



you're doing it." After reading the dedication, which he had written for Card Walker 25 years ago, Sklar added his thoughts saying, "I hope you believe as I do that Epcot fulfilled that mission."

Pairs of cast members from the 11 World Showcase nations replaced the Future World cast members on stage. Carrying banners and a vessel containing water from their home countries, they recreated the ceremony of pouring international waters into the Fountain of Nations.

Notably absent from the rededication ceremony were standard-bearers for Wonders of Life. Commenting on the status of Wonders of Life, MacPhee said, "We don't have any immediate plans for Wonders of Life. It will be used as overflow during the peak holiday season and for special events like Epcot's Food and Wine and Flower and Garden festivals."

Asked what gift he would give Epcot



Marty Sklar (middle) is welcomed on stage at the rededication ceremony by Epcot Vice President, Jim McPhee (left) and Mickey and Minnie Mouse.

for its 25th anniversary, MacPhee said, "I would give a vial of pixie dust that would represent Walt's drive, passion

and commitment – to remind everyone of the magic that was Walt Disney."



In honor of Epcot's 25th anniversary, an exhibit devoted to Epcot's history (far left) opened near Innoventions. Inside, park guests can get an up-close view of models and copies of concept art that were created in the planning stages of Epcot. Longtime Epcot fans will immediately recognize some elements present from classic "extinct" attractions, including the robot butler and helmet from Horizons (left). Lining the ceiling are banners representing all of the original Epcot pavilions with their associated logos.

Want more Epcot? Visit us online!

Head to our web site at www.attractionsmagazine.com to find more great coverage of Epcot's 25th anniversary including **photo galleries** and **high-resolution videos** of the **rededication ceremony** and special **Illuminations fireworks show**!

Going out with a BANG!

The celebration of Epcot's 25th anniversary ended with a special showing of Epcot's nightly fireworks display, "Illuminations: Reflections of Earth." For this night only, the show was extended by roughly four minutes and 30 seconds. Disney began work on the show in mid-August, two months before the celebration. Music directors carefully selected songs from Epcot's history that they knew fans would

enjoy. Since the showing was to be run only once, they went beyond the typical amount of fireworks and put together a show that would put most New Year's displays to shame. Following the fireworks, guests left the park while enjoying more Epcot music from the past, appropriately leading with the lyric, "If we can dream it, then we can do it," from the fan-favorite attraction from the past, Horizons.



You can see a video of the show online: www.attractionsmagazine.com

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AQUATICA

a new kind of water park

By Jennifer Fickley-Baker

SeaWorld of Orlando will officially take the plunge into the water park business with the opening of Aquatica, a mammoth-sized water park that blends the fun of swimming with interactive animal experiences, in March 2008.

The company already has built its reputation of being a leader in the aquatic entertainment industry in Central Florida with its two current attractions. SeaWorld of Orlando theme park has showcased the beauty of orca whales, dolphins, sea lions and other animals for years, while its smaller (and pricier) sister park, Discovery Cove, has become one of Orlando's premiere dolphin interaction experiences.

Now, the company is poised to expand into a new side of "get wet" entertainment – water parks.

Located across from SeaWorld, Aquatica will cover 59 acres and feature a total of 36 waterslides, six rivers and lagoons, two wave pools,

interactive animal experiences, 80,000 square feet of white sand beach and much more.

When it comes to waterslides, the park will truly offer something unique for every member of the family – from head-spinning raft rides and racing slides, to a calm river and a children's pool and play area.

Adventurous swimmers will be able to compete on Eight-Lane Racer, a racing ride that sends individuals speeding down a 300-foot slide, in and out of tunnels and around a 360-degree turn, or line up for the Triple Dip, which gives guests a chance to raft down a six-story, 250-foot-long, triple-drop slide. Everyone can get in on the fun at the Family Raft Ride, in which an oversized raft slides entire families down 600 feet of curves and tunnels.

Aquatica will also feature two winding rivers: the park's Lazy River is gentle and whisks guests through



This slide will be Aquatica's signature attraction. Sliders will zoom under the water in tubes surrounded by black and white Commerson's dolphins.

waterfalls and grottos that surround swimmers with tanks of colorful fish. The second is Adventure River, a high-speed current that rushes swimmers through a series of rapids, geysers and more. Similarly, the park will offer two wave pools that operate side-by-side. One will offer calm, gentle waves and the other will produce five-foot swells. A total of nine different wave patterns can be created throughout the two pools, which can be operated separately or simultaneously.

Guests with young children also have a lot to look forward to. Aquatica will feature one of the world's largest interactive water play areas for families, which will include a 60-foot-tall rain fortress complete with water cannons and a 15,000-square-foot pool. Young children can also experience waterslides with mom and dad on special slides that empty into a 79,000-gallon children's pool.

However, as innovative and as numerous as the water park's slides are, they probably won't be the talk of the town – that honor will be reserved for the park's Commerson's dolphins at the Commerson's Dolphins Slides attraction.

Similar in appearance to



SeaWorld's signature Orca whale, Shamu, black and white Commerson's dolphins will play a starring role in this waterslide experience, which enables swimmers to plunge down 300 feet of clear tubing through an aquarium filled with these amazing creatures.

According to Jim Atchison, executive vice president and general manager of SeaWorld Orlando, marrying the two concepts of water play and water life makes perfect sense for the company.

"SeaWorld is famous for immersing guests in the mystery of the sea and its animals," Atchison said. "Aquatica takes this immersion to a new level, inviting guests to play in, over, and under the water itself."

In addition to Commerson's dolphins, guests will also encounter macaws and colorful fish throughout the water park.

One person that will line up for admission when Aquatica opens this spring is Orlando resident Michael

Kilwein. The 31-year-old considers himself to be a water park connoisseur, owns an annual pass to Disney's two water parks and recently celebrated his birthday by indulging in the Discovery Cove dolphin experience.

"I go to a water park at least three times a month – probably every weekend during the summer," Kilwein said. "I own a pool and I'm never in it. I'd rather go to the water park. I'm adventurous and love the slides and snorkeling and body surfing. I'm very certain I'm going to check out Aquatica when it opens."



Progress of the park as of October is shown here and on the opposite page. These brightly colored tubes are hard to miss as you drive by.

Construction Updates

You can see Aquatica's progress from SeaWorld's Sky Tower and as you drive down nearby International Drive. To check on Aquatica's progress while out of the area, visit the official Web site at www.aquaticabyseaworld.com. You can also get updates and new photos on our Web site at: www.attractionsmagazine.com/blog. Look for a story on Aquatica's opening in a future issue.

Aquatica's look and feel is inspired by flora, vivid color and the South Seas. SeaWorld officials say their goal with Aquatica is to blend up-close animal experiences, high-speed thrills and sandy beaches.

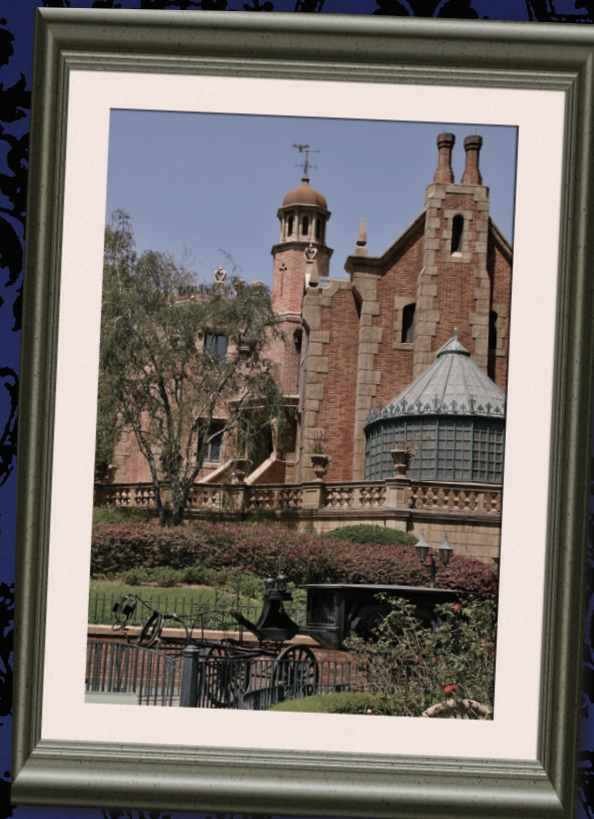


Haunted Mansion Makeover

Every room has new wall-to-wall creeps.

By Ricky Brigante

Photos by
Ricky Brigante
Matt Roseboom
Timothy Devine
themagicinpixels.com



ABOVE: During its recent refurbishment, The Haunted Mansion's exterior received fresh paint, additional landscaping, and a new crimson-colored canopy (not pictured) over the queue.

LEFT: For reopening day, Mansion butlers left more than the usual single rose on Master Gracey's tombstone.

Guests familiar with the 999 happy haunts that have graced Walt Disney World's Haunted Mansion since its opening in 1971 were in for a big surprise this past Sept. 13, when a "re-haunting" added a few new residents and twists to the ghostly retreat.

Aside from sprucing up the place (or in this case, adding a few more cobwebs), one of the primary goals was to inject the Mansion with an element any Disney Imagineer would tell you is the key to a great attraction: a story. That's not to say The Haunted Mansion has been completely without a story for decades. However, prior to this enhancement, it was difficult to find. If you asked the average

guest what the plot of the attraction was, you would likely get a confused look or be told that it was a bunch of ghosts.

The Whole Story

To fully understand the meaning and scope of the changes to Florida's Haunted Mansion, it is important to know the history behind how the Mansion was created and what its story was intended to be.

The Haunted Mansion is a staple of the Magic Kingdom-style parks throughout the world. There are presently four incarnations at Disney parks around the world.

Many story lines had been considered throughout the Mansion's plan-

ning years. A few seemed to stick, each about a sea captain and his bride. In one, the sea captain caused the deaths of his house guests. In another, his bride was the one doing the killing. Either way, they were gruesome tales. Ultimately, the idea of carrying a single story throughout the attraction was lost in favor of simply creating an ethereal experience filled with visually appealing scenes.

The sea captain and his bride, however, were not totally lost. They eventually found their way into differing elements of various Haunted Mansions, keeping some of the Mansion's originally planned story intact.

The sea captain himself appeared in two Mansions (Florida and Tokyo) by way of a single portrait located in

a hallway with 10 others, dubbed by fans as the Sinister 11. Many guests may not even remember seeing the sea captain, as his portrait was placed inconspicuously above guests at the end of the hallway.

Unlike the sea captain, the bride has always been a very prominent figure in The Haunted Mansion. Every version of The Haunted Mansion around the world has always had its own version of the bride, appearing in audio-animatronic form.

The sea captain and bride acted as subtle reminders of the first “official” stories behind The Haunted Mansion. Now, Disney’s Imagineers, in an attempt to surface a more-obvious story line, have given the Orlando version some major updates.

The Black Widow Bride

The clearest change to the ride’s story in Orlando can be seen when entering the all-new attic, complete with a creepy new character known as Constance, the black widow bride, who had previously been added to California’s Mansion.

Unlike her predecessor, who floated in sinister silence alongside passing guests, Constance offers up her unavoidable story through her dialogue. She exclaims phrases including “Til death do us part” and “As long as we both shall live,” her choice words emphasized by an axe suddenly appearing in her hands.

Before witnessing this new resident, Mansion guests notice a new series of wedding portraits in which Constance poses with her former husbands, each with a unique dilemma: their heads seem to disappear as Con-



The Haunted Mansion’s sea captain portrait.

The Bride Speaks

Voice actress Kat Cressida tells us her feelings about being the voice of The Haunted Mansion’s bride.

Orlando Attractions: *Are you happy to hear that Constance (with your voice) has made her way to The Haunted Mansion in Florida?*

Kat Cressida: It’s humbling, and a bit amazing. I last visited that park when I was a little girl. I remember we were bundled up in parkas we bought at the Alaskan pavillion. That’s when I last saw that Mansion - had I known that, flash forward 20 years, I’d be the voice of a character in that incredible second mansion, wow. Can you imagine – a little girl turning to her father and saying, “One day I’m going to be a voice in here.” Considering nothing new has been added to the classic Mansion since it first opened.

Attractions: *When you were recording your part, did you know Constance was going to make a big impact on the Haunted Mansion?*

Cressida: I was only familiar with the character and a general sense of what



would be happening. When I realized she was in fact the “star” in her own scene at the Mansion – that was a bit incredible.

Attractions: *Do you like how your voice work turned out?*

Cressida: I think it actually sounds really great. My saying “yes I love it” has much more to do with what the actual Imagineers did with the tracks than with just my performance. I guess I would also add that the adrenaline of knowing where this was going to end up probably lent a little extra something to the session.

stance’s words ring out through the attic.

Voice actress Kat Cressida, who supplied the dialogue for Constance, offers her own take on the bride’s story. “I come from a bit of history with the original bride. Her ‘story’ was related to me at a very early age, back when my father worked with Disneyland Park in marketing and knew some of the original Imagineers. Her gothic, Edgar Allen Poe-like denoue-

ment always kind of thrilled me, and my imagination filled in all kinds of images around that lone, tragic, shadowy figure towards the back of the attic, with the ever-beating heart. I loved the classic bride. I loved the whole mythology surrounding her ... And, she provided the inspiration for the read I brought to Constance.”



Constance, the Black Widow Bride.

While this gruesome story may seem to be brand new to the Haunted Mansion, Imagineers actually based it upon an image that has been part of the haunted estate since its gates first opened.

“I love that her story comes out of

classic Mansion lore,” said Cressida. “In case any fans have not yet made the connection, take a look at the portrait of the genteel southern miss with a rose in her hands in the expanding chamber and then take a closer look at some of the wedding photos of Constance.” The “southern miss” is depicted sitting upon a tombstone featuring a bust of her late husband, George, complete with a small axe buried in his stone head.

If guests remember seeing that stretching portrait when they reach the attic, they should realize the new bride is the same woman in the portrait, making her a new central character throughout the Mansion.

While Imagineers have now tied in the new attic bride to this portrait, the woman seen in the portrait wasn’t always to be known as Constance. According to an article in *Disney Magazine’s* Winter 2003-2004 issue, “A 1968 script for the mansion (which includes voice-overs and describes the attraction scene by scene) gives the names of two of the characters seen in the stretching portraits ... The elderly lady sitting on the tombstone is ‘Widow Abigale Patecleaver’ who was preceded by her husband.” Disneyland’s Haunted Mansion opened in 1969, so this script was written just a year prior. It appears Imagineers have now given her a new identity that differs from her originally scripted one in an effort to tie Constance in with this painting.

The Portrait Hallway

The sea captain’s portrait, once prominently featured inside the Orlando Mansion’s first real scene, has now been moved to the loading area walls, along with six of the Sinister 11. Their former home now houses four new-to-Florida portraits opposite a wall of lightning-filled windows.

Like Constance, this scene is inspired by a similar one found in Disneyland’s Haunted Mansion. The four new portraits feature scenery and people which, when prompted by nearby lightning flashes, briefly change to creepier versions.

While the sea captain is still present inside the Mansion, his portrait is difficult to see, as it is dimly lit and largely overlooked by guests who are eager to board their Doom Buggies. By moving his large portrait, any emphasis on the sea captain’s story line may be gone. However, his story is not completely lost, as his portrait can still be found in its original location in Tokyo Disneyland’s Haunted Mansion.

It seems that the portrait hallway changes do not necessarily enhance the overall story of the Mansion, but possibly serve as a way of reducing the number of supporting characters. The changes appear to decrease the importance of the old sea captain story.

The new hallway now serves a different purpose: It familiarizes guests

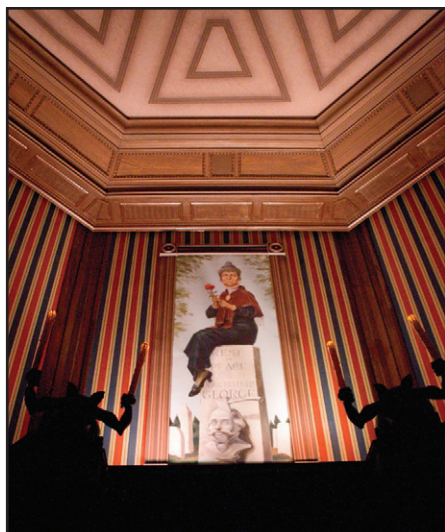
with the notion of changing portraits prior to their arrival in the attic, preparing them for Constance and her ex-husbands.

Grand Staircase

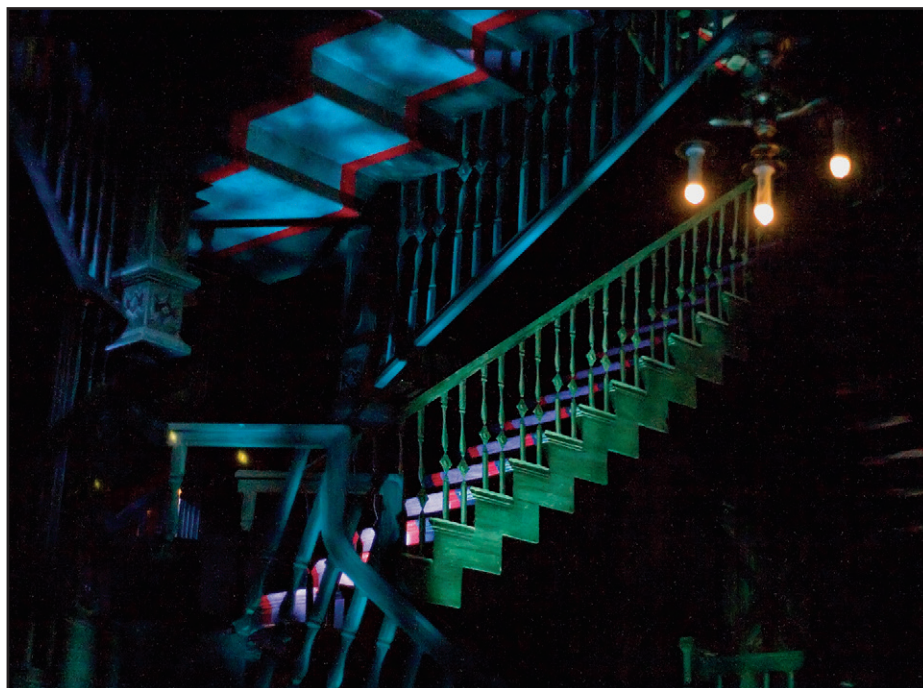
For many decades, The Haunted Mansion in the Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World contained one “scene” that was essentially nothing but pitch blackness. Just beyond the blackness resided spiders resting on a giant web (above).

For the recent “re-haunting” of the Mansion, Disney’s Imagineers decided to fill in this gap with new effects and a bit of story. In place of the total blackness, a new scene was added on both sides of the ride path, playing off of the idea that the Mansion’s ride vehicles, known as Doom Buggies, were ascending a grand staircase.

These surrounding stairs run in every direction imaginable, many up-side-down and sideways, with doors and candelabras alongside them. In addition, a few new spooks inhabit the area. Green, ghostly footsteps pace



Constance or Abigale Patecleaver?



Stairs run every direction, not just up and down, inside The Haunted Mansion.

Tales from Opening Day of The Haunted Mansion's "re-haunting"

"Anonymouse" Magic Kingdom Cast Member

At 7:13 a.m. on Sept. 13, I joined a small throng of Magic Kingdom cast members, many of whom were wearing their costumes for their opening shifts, outside the gates of the Mansion, which were finally visible. A small podium had been erected directly in front of the entrance and Jim Beeson, general manager of Liberty Square attractions made a short speech. With the classic "Grim Grinning Ghosts" song blaring from twin speakers flanking the entrance, the cast members were allowed into the queue.

We moved quickly through and were soon walking into the stretch chamber, where we were informed by

some Imagineers that we should stand in the center of the room to receive the full effect. As soon as the Ghost Host's deep voice began swirling about the room, I knew that the long wait for the refurbishment was well worth it.

After riding through twice more, I sat on the porch of the Yankee Trader to watch the first wave of guests charge towards the Mansion just after rope drop. After the opening recording played over the speakers, a line of several Mansion cast members walked a mass of guests from Fantasyland to the beginning of the queue, and the crowd began to snake through the line. A few moments later, another large crowd

came from the main entrance to Liberty Square and joined the existing throng that was still feeding into the queue. It was a bit chaotic, but it was orderly.

We saw the first few guests exiting the Mansion, and we asked them what they thought. We received several thumbs up and many positive comments. Even though I had nothing to do with the refurbishment of the Mansion, at that moment I could not help but feel pride for working at the Magic Kingdom. Where else could a mere theme park attraction cause such a stir and create so many emotions in so many different people?

Annemarie Dooling, Walt Disney World Annual Passholder

Iwas prepared for a sensational grand re-opening of the Haunted Mansion. Having been at Disney World the entire week, I stalked the grounds, made mental notes and used online tools to prepare the best course of action for getting to see my favorite attraction again. I was sure there was going to be an enormous crowd! Boy, was that an understatement.

I arrived at the Magic Kingdom around 7:45 a.m. Even though they were holding extra magic hours for Disney resort guests that morning, Liberty Square attractions were closed until 9 a.m. Seeing a line form from the right side of Cinderella's Castle from Adventureland, I ran around the other side to Fantasyland. The Fantasyland side was somewhat calmer, full of fans from all parts of the country, every race, gender, and shape and size. Everyone clad in Disney and Haunted Mansion shirts, some sporting lanyards full of pins, everyone excited to catch a glimpse of the mansion – but ropes across both entrances kept us just feet away!

Several times before 9 a.m., cast

members came out, in full Haunted Mansion garb, to tease us and elevate the atmosphere. By 8:45 a.m. there was a little pushing, and there was a restless air over the crowd. All around, you could hear murmurs of excitement, kids clamoring for their family members to make the gates open, and a general feeling of togetherness through the entire group. We were all there to share a love – albeit a silly one – for an attraction that opened in 1971 and has seen generations of Disney fans.

Finally, the rope was opened and we were released! In one mad rush – not a run, but a quick gallop – the Fantasyland group passed by the gate on the Adventureland side – which had not been opened yet, and by more anxious Haunted Mansion fans behind it. We reached the doors, they opened at once, and we were let in!

From the first step inside, the Haunted Mansion held a brighter glow than it had in June. A smell enveloped us all as we watched the new sights, some very spooky new intros, and were corralled into the stretching room at last. Besides the fantastic new scenes

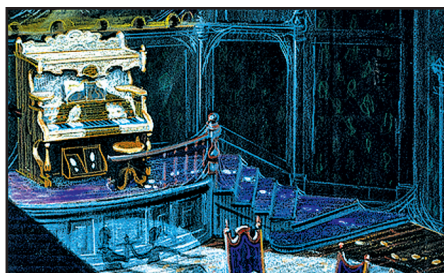
and technology working before our eyes, you could hear a distinct murmur rise above the group. "This is new ... look at that ... ooo, what's that?" And then we were moved toward the Doom Buggies and the ride began. Sliding down and around dusty hallways, through new sections lit up by new lighting, and passing through some old favorites, one thing was clear – the Haunted Mansion is back, and it's giving the Disneyland number one a run for its money.

As the Doom Buggy pulled in to the exit landing, thunderous applause echoed throughout the hall, and as the light hit our eyes when we, the first group to ride, made our exit, we came face to face with the hundreds of people now waiting in line. Strangers became best friends sharing accounts of their time in the Mansion.

Walt Disney World did a service, not only to themselves, but also to families everywhere by taking the time to tantalize and tease us and preserve our beloved Mansion. It's here to stay, and was truly worth the hour-plus wait in line for the second trip around.

up and down the stairs. Astute on-lookers will notice that there appears to be a battle between two ghosts in the scene: one invisible entity is set on blowing out the candelabras and the other, with his or her green footsteps, is continuously re-lighting them.

The notion of ghostly footsteps is not entirely a new one, as it dates back to the early planning stages for The Haunted Mansion. A painting (below) by Disney Legend Claude Coates depicts a concept for the ballroom scene



in which footsteps seem to appear and disappear along their way to the piano. Ultimately, the piano was replaced by a grand organ, the silhouetted figure replaced by an audio-animatronic one, and the footsteps left out of the Mansion until now.

While this new staircase scene does not directly relate to any previous Mansion story line involving the sea captain or the bride, it does add some additional characters to a previously vacant area. Adding a few new quirky residents, even invisible ones, to the Mansion does nothing but enhance the overall story of the Mansion.

Enhancing the Enhancements

Not all of the enhancements to The Haunted Mansion were focused on adding new story elements. Some were purely for added entertainment.

Improving on an effect present in the Phantom Manor in Disneyland Paris, Imagineers enhanced the Mansion's famous purple wallpaper, known for its intricate design filled with small eyes, with the addition of glowing eyes (above) that float, move, and blink.

The seance circle now contains another effect from California's Mansion. Madame Leota, the mysterious disembodied gypsy who recites incantations from within her crystal ball, now floats around the room (top).



In a purely audible addition to The Haunted Mansion, the ghost host's voice in the stretching gallery now floats around the room. At times, he even sounds like he's speaking directly to guests over their shoulders.

The Fans' Reaction

Some Disney fans are notoriously resistant to change. Whenever it is announced an attraction, especially a classic one, is going to go down for refurbishment, many fans immediately get defensive, wanting to ensure that the attraction maintains its value both historically and emotionally.

Jeff Baham (below), better known as Chef Mayhem on his popular Haunted Mansion tribute Web site, DoomBuggies.com (which is celebrating its 10th year), understands the historical value of The Haunted Mansion.



"There's very important history here, especially since the Haunted Mansion attraction specifically indicates a point in time during which Disney's theme park designers had to learn to move on without Walt at the helm,"

said Baham, "and the attraction demonstrates some of the successes and struggles from that process."

However, Baham does have faith in Imagineering to enhance an attraction. "I definitely think a lot of care and attention should go into any update or enhancement made to a successful Disney attraction – but at the same time, I think Walt did intend for his park to be constantly evolving, and to always be entertaining first and foremost. So as audience expectations change, I think it makes sense for the parks to rise and surpass those expectations."

Tim Dunne (below) has been a Haunted Mansion fan almost his whole life and a DoomBuggies.com regular for many years. He's experi-



enced the ride in Florida, California and Paris and claims to have ridden the Disney World version at least 1,000 times. He's even opened his own haunted attraction, Fright Fest in Southern New Hampshire.

"My first ride through after the refurbishment was unbelievable," he said. "Everything they did blended in seamlessly with what has always been there."

"I would say the staircase scene is my favorite. The forced perspective nature of it really impressed me, as well as the appearing/disappearing footsteps."

One of the more controversial enhancements to the Mansion was the replacement of the old bride with Constance. Many fans believe Constance is out of place, not only in character but in technology. The old figure, with her iconic beating heart, is now gone and has been replaced with a life-size, bright blue ghostly projection. Combine that with all of the attic scene's props being completely swapped out

CELEBRITY SIGHTINGS

If you've followed professional wrestling at all in the past 10 years, you've probably heard of Scotty 2 Hotty. That was the name Scott Garland used while in the WWE, where he wrestled for more than 10 years. Always a theme park fan and a Disney collector, Scott currently lives near Orlando and enjoys the parks regularly with his family.

I think that anyone who is a theme park fanatic like myself has always wondered what it would be like to go through a dark ride with the lights on. Well in 2000 I got to experience this with my wife, Terri.

At that point, professional wrestling was at the peak of its popularity. It seemed like everyone was a fan and watched World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE).

This was also the year when my career really took off and I first started getting recognized in public, which made me realize there were some fun perks to being on TV.

On one of our trips to Disney, we decided to go to the Magic Kingdom and ride the Haunted Mansion ride. As we were exiting the attraction, a cast member recognized me. We talked about wrestling for a few minutes, and as we were getting ready to walk away, I said, "Hey do you guys ever give tours of the Mansion after closing with the lights on?" I thought it was a long shot, but I figured if I was ever going to get in, this was my chance. To our surprise, he told us to come back at closing. So we went and rode Pirates of the Caribbean and then Splash Mountain, the whole time holding on to the anticipation that we were going to see the Haunted Mansion



with the lights on!

When we got off Splash Mountain, it was two minutes past closing time. So, we sprinted from Frontierland back to the Mansion. We ran up to the front door and started knocking like crazy. Nobody answered. So we ran around to the exit.

"There you are," said our new best buddy. He had us get on the ride at the exit and we rode up to the loading area. That in itself was cool, just being able to ride from the exit, something we had obviously never done. At the loading area, we met another cast member who took us on the rest of our tour of Master Gracey's mansion. He shut the ride down, turned the lights on and the sound off. I have to say, it looks different with the lights on. He picked up his dustpan and trash grabber that all the cast members use when picking up trash. I immediately took them from him and told him that I wanted to do that. I did this just so I could say I worked at the Haunted Mansion.

It was the most surreal experience. I couldn't believe we were actually walking through one of my all-time favorite

attractions. I had been on this countless times since my first visit when I was just two years old.

At the beginning, we were able to slowly walk through the ride, taking everything in. We walked by the library and were able to touch the piano and the busts. (Funny, the papers were glued down to the floor.) We were able to walk up to the casket with the guy trying to get out. It was at this point we realized our biggest mistake. We forgot our camera!

Next, we walked through the séance room and saw Madame Leota without the projection on her face. The whole thing wasn't as eerie as I thought it would be, although I don't think I would want to walk through alone. Yes I am a wrestler, but also a big chicken.

We then passed through the ballroom scene, but the ghosts weren't dancing. When we were going through the attic, we could hear maintenance people working down below. Next, we went down the steep slope and into the graveyard. At this point, someone's voice came over the sound system and asked the cast member what was going on. Unfortunately this was his boss, and we were rushed through the rest of the tour. It honestly didn't matter to us, as we had just lived out one of our dreams. We got to walk through one of the world's greatest attractions with the lights on.

We would occasionally see the guy who walked us through the Mansion after this, but eventually I think he moved on and we lost contact with him. I'm not sure if he knows it or not, but that night he helped create a magical memory that will last a lifetime.

- Scott Garland, aka Scotty 2 Hotty

and suddenly a classic scene from The Haunted Mansion has been essentially removed from existence.

Kat Cressida feels that Constance fits right in. "I think in some ways the illusion is both a throwback to classic Mansion female characters (Leota, Little Leota) and in some ways a big leap in technology that Walt Disney would have been happy with, since he was always happy to experiment with the latest technologies and wanted to see them integrated constantly into his

ever-expanding vision of his park."

Both Baham and Cressida make a point of not forgetting the Mansion's history. In 2006, for Halloween, they teamed up, with Disney's assistance, to produce "Nuptial Doom: A Haunting Tale of the Haunted Mansion Bride," in which Kat tells the original Haunted Mansion story of the sea captain and his bride, as told to her by her father. While the sea captain may be hard to find in Florida's Mansion, he still lives on through this recording.

Ultimately, the refurbishment of The Haunted Mansion has changed enough to keep it fresh and new for today's generation of demanding guests, but also has retained enough of the old Mansion to satisfy its most hardcore fans. ●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●

Want more Mansion?

To watch a video of the attraction's reopening, visit:
www.attractionsmagazine.com

Halloween Wrap-Up

Sights and Frights in 2007

The Halloween season brings fun and a whole lot of scares to Orlando-area theme parks, each with their own take on the spooky season.

Disney treats guests to a scare-less Halloween celebration throughout October. Haunted Mansion Ballroom “ghosts” dance their way down the parade route. The unique “Boo To You” parade is a highlight of the Not-So-Scary nights. The parade includes Donald, Daisy, Mickey, Minnie (upper-left), and other Disney favorites all wearing Halloween costumes, villains like Maleficent (upper-right) from *Sleeping Beauty* who don't need costumes, and even



Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween Party



Parade photos by: Matt Roseboom

ballroom dancers from The Haunted Mansion attraction (above, right). Guests are invited to wear their own costumes and some even top Disney's, like the guest-created Haunted Mansion-inspired ghosts (above, left). From left are Darrell Phillips, Brian de Tagyos, Regina Phillips, Liz Vitale, Steve Vitale and Jesse Brown. Aside from the parade, the event includes special “Happy HalloWishes” fireworks, two dance parties, a villains' stage show and many trick or treating spots.

Howl-O-Scream at Busch Gardens Tampa



Just outside Orlando, Tampa's Busch Gardens packed in five scare zones, three live shows, including “Sweet Dreams” (left), and six haunted houses, like “Catch Your Breath” (left) set in an abandoned gas station, to entertain ghoulish guests looking for a good time.

Photos by: Robert Ashburn, BGTGuide.com

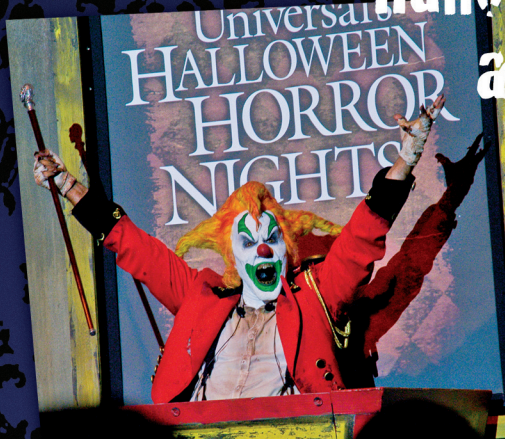
Halloween Horror Nights at Universal Studios

The Carnival of Carnage starring Jack the Clown (right) themed this year's frightful festivities. The opening "scaremonies" included Jack offering up a victim to a few well-known horror icons from New Line Cinema, making their

first-ever live appearances. *A Nightmare on Elm Street's* Freddy Kruger had the pleasure of securing his next

victim (right) with some help from Leatherface from *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* and Jason Voorhees from *Friday The 13th*. There was a record total of eight haunted houses this year. In a street act called "Freak Show," one of the many sideshows around the park, a chamber of rats

(below, left) proves to be relaxing for some. The indestructible cheerleader from NBC's hit TV show *Heroes* taunts killer Michael Myers from *Halloween* (left) during the always popular "Bill and Ted's Excellent Halloween Adventure" show. New this year was "The Rocky Horror Picture Show Tribute."



Photos by: Matt Roseboom

SeaWorld Orlando's Halloween Spooktacular



Photos by: Matt Roseboom

Elmo and Count Van Count (above) from *Sesame Street* sing and dance in the special "Countdown To Halloween" stage show. Aquatic pumpkins, a mermaid in her shell, and other characters were available for pictures with guests during the Halloween Spooktacular. Other events included various bands performing kids songs, a DJ with breakdancers, and lots of free treats.

Marathon with the Mouse

A DREAM COME TRUE FOR DISNEY RUNNERS

By Andrew Kiste



Andrew lives out his dream as he runs through the Disney-MGM Studios.

There are rare and special instances in life when two things that are great on their own combine to produce something extraordinary: peanut butter and jelly, Abbott and Costello, baseball and hot dogs to name just a few. In January of 2007, I had the good fortune to experience the magic that occurs when two things that I love combine to create a truly memorable experience: Disney and running.

Throughout my high school distance running career I found it helpful to focus my mind on something other than the boredom and pain of intense training. Since I am a self-professed Disney fanatic and because Disney World is one of my favorite places on earth, I often pictured myself running over the drawbridge in front of Cinderella Castle or under the geodesic dome of Spaceship Earth. After I graduated, my days of organized running seemed to be over. However, while casually flipping through one of my running magazines, I saw an advertisement for the 2007 Walt Disney World marathon weekend, which consisted of a 5K race on Friday, a half-marathon on Saturday, and a full marathon on Sunday. Suddenly my dream became a possibility: I might actually be able to combine my love of running with my love of Disney.

After significant pleading and cajoling, I convinced my parents to allow me to register for the half-marathon portion of the race weekend. My dad agreed to accompany me, and I was able to convince him

that we should run the Pirate and Princess 5K together.

We arrived at Disney's Pop Century Resort a few days before the races and enjoyed the parks and took care of our registration responsibilities. On Friday morning, my dad and I laced up our running shoes and headed to Disney-MGM Studios, where we encountered a large crowd being enter-

tained by a rollicking group of pirates as they waited for the race to begin. At 7 a.m. the starting whistle blew, confetti filled the air, and familiar characters such as Mickey, Pluto and Stitch high-fived us as we began the race.

Pacing myself with my dad, we reveled in our surroundings as we ran through the park. We jogged through the set of Lights, Motors, Action! Extreme Stunt Show, continued on through the Backlot Tour area, and proceeded through New York Street, past Muppet Vision 3D and Star Tours. As we broke onto Sunset Boulevard and saw The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror looming in the distance, it struck me that I was living a dream. Reaching the finish of the race seemed almost anticlimactic.

Early the next morning we once again rose before dawn and made our way to the Epcot parking area. As with the day before, the parking lot was filled with runners, music and entertainment. At 6 a.m., I began my journey amidst an explosion of fireworks indicating the beginning of the race.

After only a mile I was already sweating profusely in the morning humidity,

but I barely noticed as I anticipated the sights that awaited me. After a few more miles of running, the castle finally came into view. I realized that my dreams were about to come true, and as I ran down Main Street USA, I thought about all the times I had imagined this actual moment. It was even better than I had ever dreamed! My dad was among the crowd near Cinderella Castle, cheering me on as I made my way through the park.

Leaving the Magic Kingdom, we ran by a number of resorts, were serenaded by a variety of bands and cheered on by crowds of onlookers. Eventually we approached Epcot, looping through the park, enjoying the shade of Spaceship Earth and fulfilling yet another of my dreams. Exiting the park, I trudged the last few meters of the race, carrying a lifetime of memories with me across the finish line.

The next day, another wave of run-



Andrew with his dad, Stan, at the end of the Pirate and Princess 5K.

ners participated in the full marathon, living out their own dreams. All in all, we experienced an incredible weekend of challenge, camaraderie, and Disney magic. Although I won't be participating in the next marathon weekend (Jan. 10 - 13, 2008), I look forward to running the full marathon again in 2009.

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From dinner to dancing: Enjoy all kinds of salsa at

The Latin Quarter

By Toni Daylor

When diners step through the doors of the Latin Quarter, it's like they're entering an exotic locale reminiscent of an ancient South American ruin. Faux stone walls, smooth cobbled floors inlaid with a colorful tile mosaic add to the Aztec, Incan and Mayan-influenced architecture as flags representing 21 Latin American nations hang from a balcony above.

The centerpiece of this Latin-themed restaurant is a dance floor nestled against a mountainside wall mural and situated under a ceiling crafted to look like an evening's starry sky. Guarded by massive stone statues, this space comes alive every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night as patrons dance the salsa, meringue and cha-cha or try other moves inspired by the driving rhythm of Latino music.

As they dine on authentic cuisine representing Central America, South America, Mexico and the Caribbean, guests are treated to the sights and sounds of Latin music videos displayed

on large projection screens in the main dining room.

The live music of a flamenco artist entertains those who choose to eat outside on the patio, taking advantage of Central Florida's year-round temperate weather.

"I think what makes us so appealing is the atmosphere," says Calvin Hollingsworth, general manager. "The beautiful décor complimented by amazing food makes us one of the few places where you can enjoy a great dinner and then get up and dance the night away."

The menu has a wide selection of

Spanish, the menu offers a glossary of terms complete with pronunciation and description of specialty items.

Chef Ramiro Santa Cruz brings years of experience to the Latin Quarter to create signature dishes such as the Churasco skirt steak, which is perched atop a bed of garbanzo beans and chorizo sausage and served with a flavorful chimichuri sauce. The paella is another signature item that is a popular choice. Slowly cooked with Spanish rice, the paella combines with shrimp, scallops, mussels, clams, squid, and chorizo.

While waiting for an appetizer such as the Tres Amigos – bacon-wrapped jumbo shrimp stuffed with jalapeño peppers, chicken enchiladas resting on a bed of tostones (fried plantains), and beef empanadas – diners can enjoy complimentary warm rolls fresh from the oven. An added amenity brings a chef tableside to mix a batch

of fresh guacamole as patrons decide among the many ingredients.

Understanding that the entire family enjoys a wonderful meal out, the Latin Quarter has created a children's menu



A couple checks out the menu posted at the entrance. The Latin Quarter is located in Universal's CityWalk, just up the incline from Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville.

appetizers, soups, salads and desserts. Entrees are moderately priced from \$10 to \$30 and include choices of chicken, beef, pork and fresh seafood. To aid those who may need a primer in



COMFORT AND CULTURE:

The main dining room features an open kitchen and Latin music videos playing among the Aztec, Incan and Mayan-influenced decor.

with standard favorites of chicken fingers and hamburgers, as well as a petite filet or pasta with shrimp for youngsters with a more sophisticated palate. Healthy choices of grapes or apple sauce can be substituted for French fries.

Finish the dining experience with one of Latin Quarter's rich desserts. Mango cheesecake, chocolate guava cake, tres leches, or traditional flan all go great with a steaming cup of Cuban coffee.

A full bar is separated from the main dining room by an intricate wrought-iron partition. Patrons can enjoy a cocktail, choose from an expansive wine and beer list, or sample the restaurant's specialty drink, the Cuban mojito. This concoction is a fusion of fresh mint, lime muddled with simple syrup, Bacardi rum and topped with club soda. Made fresh, the Latin Quarter professes to make the best mojito in Orlando. Guests can choose to dine at the bar with access to the full dinner menu.

The Latin Quarter is also known for its energy-filled and vibrant nightclub. The trendy club, which is exclusively for adults age 21 and older, has earned the best Latin Nightclub designation by *Orlando Weekly* for six years. Both the nightclub and restaurant were voted best Latin American restaurant in Orlando for the last seven years by the *Orlando Sentinel*. Thursday nights are for the ladies who can enjoy free drinks until midnight as they sample the Latin nightlife.

One does not have to be an expert dancer to appreciate an evening at the Latin Quarter. Much of the fun is watching others dance, and possibly, picking up a few new moves in the process.

The Latin Quarter can accommodate parties for every occasion from birthdays to corporate events. The clientele is definitely a mix between locals and tourists who are looking for a fun-filled night out.

The Latin Quarter is located at Universal Orlando's CityWalk. The

restaurant is open for dinner daily from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. For more information, call (407) 363-8000.



Dining is available inside or out. Live music is also often performed outside.

**Nick nick nick
nick nick nick
nick nick --
Nickelodeon!**

**Award-winning
Nickelodeon Hotel
delivers more than
a place to sleep.**

By Andrea M. Galabinski



Resort Report



A look at the immense size and span of the Lagoon Slide at the Nickelodeon Family Suites by Holiday Inn. Scores of activities center around the main pool areas, which offer waterslides, flumes and erupting geysers, along with “the ultimate splashdown” - a 400-gallon dump tank!



From Under the Sea to Outer Space: Whether you're a fan of SpongeBob or Jimmy Neutron, the Nick Hotel has a room for you.

With two deluxe pool complexes featuring a 400-gallon dunk tank, a million-dollar state-of-the-art theater, a Kids Spa, a 3,000-square-foot arcade and even its own mall, there's so much to do at Orlando's Nickelodeon Hotel it's like an attraction in itself.

The Nick Hotel is the wildly successful partnership between the folks at Nickelodeon and Holiday Inn. Nickelodeon Family Suites By Holiday Inn's 24-acre site is located near the heart of Orlando's attraction district and hosts more than 700 specialty-themed suites.

In 2005, it was named Best Holiday Inn North America by InterContinental Hotels Group's Priority Club Rewards and in 2006, TripAdvisor chose it as a Best For Families Hotel for their prestigious Travelers' Choice awards.

At Nick Hotel, family-oriented amenities and fun abound. Here's an outline of what's available at the hotel.

The hotel is located about 20 minutes from the Orlando International Airport, about a mile from Walt Disney

World Resort and minutes away from Universal, SeaWorld, and other attractions with shuttle service available.

From check-in to check-out, you'll see the famous Nickelodeon characters everywhere you turn, from SpongeBob SquarePants to Dora The Explorer to Jimmy Neutron in a variety of settings, including in-room murals and character breakfasts.

The hotel offers 777 Nickelodeon-themed KidSuites. "What's great about our one, two and three bedroom suites

is that they were designed with families in mind, to create an atmosphere where moms and dads are comfortable with the kids in the same room," says Tom Schwinden, director of sales and marketing for Nick Hotel.

Suites (pictured above) have private adult bedrooms, separate kids rooms, a family room area and kitchen, and feature a TV in every room.

Many have larger than life murals of the famous Nick characters to delight the

kids. "SpongeBob SquarePants is our most popular resident," added Schwinden.

Main attractions are the two interactive pool complexes, with multiple slides, climbing nets, water jets and a 400-gallon dunk tank.

Nick-style shows are held there regularly, and every day at 4:45 p.m. there's a "giant sliming" from the dunk tank.

"Another popular event is our Dive-In Movies, where you can actually sit in the pool and watch your favorite film," says Schwinden. "Or as a family, you can move from the water and visit one of six different food and beverage outlets while you dine poolside and watch the movie."

The food outlets are located by the pool and in the hotel's mall. The Mall's Food Court features Nicktoons Café, a full-service restaurant that has daily buffets and special Character Breakfasts to meet and greet the toons.

Stroll through the mall and you'll find the Kids' Spa, a popular attraction to pamper youngsters with manicures, hair wraps and temporary tattoos.

The Mall also hosts Studio Nick, the hotel's million-dollar, state-of-the-art theater that boasts a number of different shows and live nightly entertainment. "There's Karaoke for kids and adults,



"Rain or shine, there's always slime"

and we do actual Nick-themed shows that are family-oriented and interactive. People gets slimed and pied," says Schwinden.

There's also a mini golf course, netted basketball court with multiple-height hoops for kids of all ages, and a shaded kids play area offering wet 'n dry attractions like slides and squirt games and crafts.

For parties, there's The Big Room with 3,600 square feet of party space, and for adults to unwind there's the Nick@Nite Lounge where parents can relax with a cocktail, frozen drink, or afternoon coffee. There's also a 3,000-square-foot arcade game room.

The word 'slime' is synonymous with Nick; the slimy green substance poured on heads on the TV network's shows that launched Nick into mega-popularity. The hotel is now launching Club Slime for the ultimate slime experience.

The red-rope, VIP atmosphere club will be held at Studio Nick, and is described as a one-of-a-kind theme event. Each Club goer will receive "Sense of Slime" food and drink, play a messy game, receive a

family photo and learn the new dance, the Slime Slide. "Slime is a character on it's own, they [guests] want to see slime," says Schwinden.

The hotel has also just launched a new birthday initiative – one-free night with two paid nights at the hotel for any guest having a birthday. That includes moms, dads, grandparents, aunts and uncles.

There are also a lot of new activities and entertainment, including a range of theme parties like the new SpongeBob party, and private shows where you can dance with the characters and get free goodies. They're also offering private slimings, private meet and greets with



Nick Hotel's two-sided gift shop leads guests into their food court. One side of the shop sells Nick merchandise and the other features the usual gift shop sundries and quick snacks.

the characters and custom birthday experiences.

To learn more about the hotel, go to www.NickHotel.com or call 1-800-972-2590

For more photos, visit: www.attractionsmagazine.com



Slime Drop 2008 - December 31, 2007

"Forget the apple, drop the slime!" Countdown to the New Year at the exclusive Slime Drop 2008, and experience the best pool party ever, organizers say. Join in poolside games and get slimed at midnight.

"Oftentime families are split up at this holiday, and this is an event that really differentiates us as a family hotel," says Schwinden. "It's all about partying it up family style and spending New Year's with family."

Holiday Events at Nick Hotel

They'll be decking the halls in slime green and Nick orange this holiday season with a variety of activities, whether it's fun with Santa or going on a Candy-Cane Stroll. There'll be parades through the mall with all the characters, music, treats and photo opportunities through the holidays.

The Nick Hotel Chef will work with kids during a Gingerbread house workshop, and every day there will be holiday crafts around the pool. Dive-in Movies take a holiday theme, with the hotel playing holiday themed episodes of all the kids' favorite shows.

Happy Harbor means Happy Families

SeaWorld spruces
up their kids area
with new rides

By Nikki Barnes

Spanning four acres, Shamu's Happy Harbor in SeaWorld is nearly its own theme park centered on kids and families. Now including six rides able to accommodate children and their parents, families can climb, ride and splash around together.

While Shamu's Happy Harbor is designed for little ones, SeaWorld is placing an adult-sized focus on keeping families satisfied.

"This year, we have created unique experiences with a focus on kids. Parents become participants in their child's experiences and not just observers to the theme-park experience. Vacation moments become lifelong memories as the shows, and even the rides, are designed to be enjoyed together as a family," said Jim Atchison, SeaWorld Orlando's vice president and general manager.

Newest in the lineup is the Sea Carou-



sel, a merry-go-round filled with many types of underwater creatures for young ones to ride. The Flying Fiddler (below, left) is a milder vertical ride, peaking at 20 feet in the air before a quick series of short drops. The swinging Ocean Commotion (opposite, bottom-right) is a boat ride that rocks side to side and whirls back and forth.

"Being able to ride with my son has made this kids area so much more fun," said Kathy Berry, local parent and SeaWorld passport holder.

"I love the Swishy Fishies! It's so cool to spin around!" added her 5-year-old son, Brett.

Also in the kids area are the Jazzy Jellies (opposite, bottom-left), Swishy Fishies (above, right) and Shamu Express (opposite, top). The Jellies has guests climb aboard a jellyfish-themed ride that swirls up and swooshes down. Reminiscent of another spinning cup ride, the Swishy Fishies is made up of oversized water spout buckets revolving around a larger water spout. Billed as a mini-roller coaster, the Shamu Express reaches speeds of 28 mph along 800 feet of track.

Each of the rides has physical requirements, and most allow smaller ones to ride when accompanied by an adult.

"I have a preschooler, a toddler and a husband, and there just aren't many places in the parks where everyone is happy. Here, there's something for everyone,"

said Melody Clark, an area teacher.

For even the smallest guests, there are no height restrictions on the giant Net Climb, Vinyl Pyramid, Sand Area, Fun Ship and Waterplay area, all mainstays of the Happy Harbor.

Perhaps of even greater interest to the adults, are the multiple snack stands, a small merchandise area with swimsuits and towels for sale, and a fully equipped (and fully air-conditioned) baby care station. Inside, guests will find private feeding rooms, changing facilities and even child-sized toilets. Various essentials are





also for sale, including baby food and diapering supplies.

Carrie Felgenhauer, new mom to four-month-old baby Zoe and on vacation from Illinois, welcomed the break from the Florida sun during a recent visit.

"I don't have to worry about her

getting too warm. We just came in here for a little rest and then it's back out to see the shows!"

SeaWorld Orlando is open year-round from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. with extended hours during summer and holidays.

Visit www.SeaWorld.com for more information.

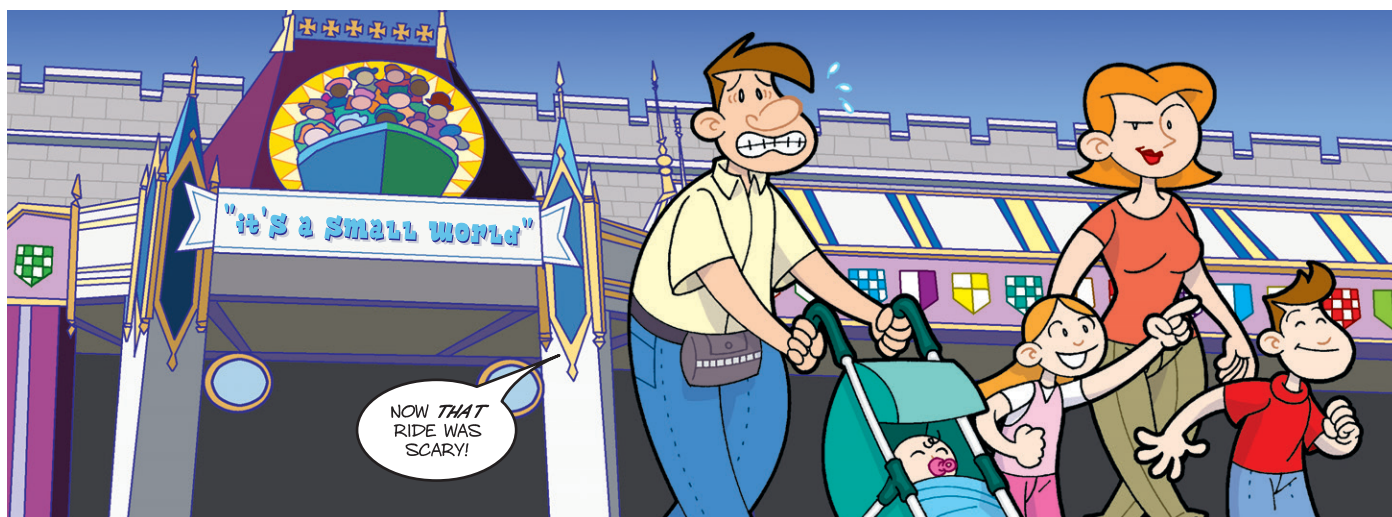
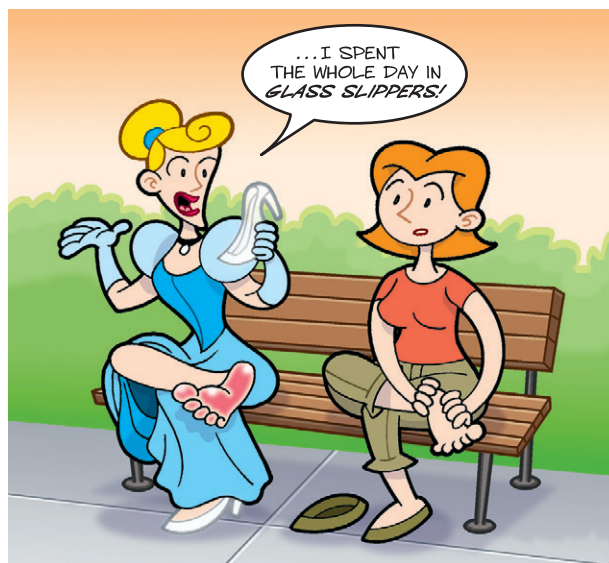
Happy Harbor at Home

You can find fun, kid-friendly games plus tips for parents and a graphic, animated layout of Happy Harbor at www.ShamusHappyHarbor.com.



BEAMUSEMENT PARK

by John Green
& Pat Lewis



To learn more about our comic family, The Musers, head to attractionsmagazine.com.

PUZZLES

WORD SEARCH

C A T I N T H E H A T R E R E M K Q
E A K N E F R U O T T O L K C A B T
L N R R U A S O N I D S R S U D R M
I J A O E I S K S K A O R A I T A M
N U K C U T T J S R O N E Y E E J S
J S E I H S I F Y H S I W S L A L R
O U N N R H E B A U O W O S Z P U U
I U N U A A A U R K T A T Z E A S O
R P T G I M E D S O H R Y E F R E T
N L Z N L U R A U S O J K O Y T K R
F M I I T E I E I M E R S R E Y A A
E L N Y U X C T D L B L T S R U U T
U E R L T P R R L I S O T S M L Q S
N Z A F C R F I U S P T C J A J H R
O S E O I E E B T I R S E D U J T D
P D A E T S J U R A S S I C P A R K
G A A T A S U E C Q A E R I A T A Y
S E I T E R R K A R H T W I S T E R

Astro Orbiter	Backlot Tour	CarouSeussel	Cat in the Hat
Dinosaur	Dumbo	Earthquake	Flying Unicorn
Jazzy Jellies	Jungle Cruise	Jurassic Park	Kraken
Mad Tea Party	Maelstrom	Shamu Express	Sky Tower
Spiderman	Star Tours	Swishy Fishies	Test Track
Twister			

Answers are names of attractions in Orlando theme parks.
Words can be vertical, horizontal, diagonal, and backwards.

Can you figure them all out?

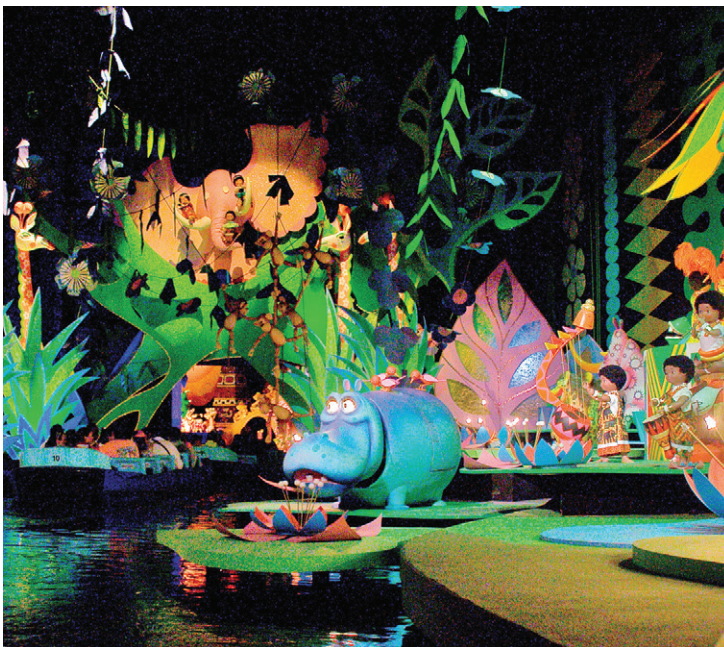
Restaurant Rebus

Using the picture clues below, name four restaurants found in Walt Disney World.



SPOT the DiFFeRence

Can you find all 9 differences in these two pictures?



Stumped? Need to check to see if you're right? You can find all of the answers on the next page!

Disney Fans & Legends Meet in Orlando

The National Fantasy Fan Club brings them together for a memorable weekend.

The second annual Florida convention of the National Fantasy Fan Club (NFFC) was held at Walt Disney World from Sept. 27 - 30, ending just in time to celebrate Epcot's 25th anniversary on Oct. 1. It was no coincidence that this year's convention was held that weekend, as many of the speakers lined up to make presentations during the convention were Disney Legends who worked for the Mouse when Epcot opened 25 years earlier and have a lot of stories to tell.

Each year, Disney Legends,

Imagineers, and even fans with a lot of Disney knowledge, step up to the microphone and draw hundreds of attendees from around the country to Orlando to meet, mingle, and learn a little bit more about Disney's history.

In addition to fun and educational seminars, the NFFC offers Disney fans a chance to sell, trade, and show off their memorabilia, meet Disney authors, and take private tours through Disney's theme parks.

To find out more about the NFFC, visit them online at www.NFFC.org.



Calling Collectors

The NFFC Show and Sale is the ultimate spot for Disney collectors. Fans can find their "holy grails" and even meet well-known Disney names like Disney Legend and Archivist Dave Smith (below, left) and Imagineer and author Jason Surrall (below, right).



All-Access Pass

The NFFC Florida is host to two days of seminars given by some of the most well-known people from Disney history. This year's roster included former Imagineer Terri Hardin, Disney Legend and former publicist to Walt Disney, Charlie Ridgway (above, top), and former vice chairman and principal creative executive for Walt Disney Imagineering, Marty Sklar. The seminars were held at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort as well as in the The Living Seas VIP lounge in Epcot (above, bottom).

PUZZLE ANSWERS

WORD SEARCH

C A T I N T H E H A T R E R E M K Q
E A K N E F R U O T T O L K C A B T
L N R R U A S O N I D S R S U D R M
I J A O E I S K S K A O R A I T A M
N U K C U T T J S R O N E Y E E J S
J S E I H S I F Y H S I W S L A L R
O U N N R H E B A U O W O S Z P U U
I U N U A A A U R K T A T Z E A S O
R P T G I M E D S O H R Y E F R E T
N L Z N L U R A U S O J K O Y T K R
F M I I T E I E I M E R S R E Y A A
E L N Y U X C T D L B L T S R U U T
U E R L T P R R L I S O T S M L Q S
N Z A F C R F I U S P T C J A J H R
O S E O I E E B T I R S E D U J T D
P D A E T S J U R A S S I C P A R K
G A A T A S U E C Q A E R I A T A Y
S E I T E R R K A R H T W I S T E R

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



RESTAURANT REBUS

Spoodles
Casey's Corner
Citrico's
All Star Cafe

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Attraction News From Outside the Orlando Area

By Andy Guinigundo

Disney's California Adventure to be updated for \$1.1 billion

Anaheim, Calif. – Disney has announced that they will be investing \$1.1 billion into Disney's California Adventure (nearly as much as it cost to build the park) over the next few years. Additions to the park will include Carsland, a 12-acre land themed after the Disney-Pixar film *Cars*, a dark ride based on the classic Disney film, *The Little Mermaid*, a new nighttime water show called "World of Color," a red trolley system running throughout the park, and a re-themed entranceway.

Grand Californian to grow

Anaheim, Calif. – In response to the growing need for accommodations in Anaheim, Disneyland Resort announced a 30 percent increase in capacity at the Grand Californian Hotel & Spa. This includes the first Disney Vacation Club accommodations on the west coast. The total room count will go from 745 to 945. There will be 50 villas. It's expected to be completed in late 2009. The project will also include a new pool and fireworks viewing deck on the roof of the hotel.

Redesigned princess dresses

Paris, France –

In continuing celebration of its 15th anniversary, Disneyland Resort Paris announced it is teaming up with top European fashion designers to benefit UNICEF. Each designer will redesign classic Disney princess dresses in their own unique style. The final products were to be showcased in November at Disneyland Resort Paris. They will be auctioned by Christie's in Paris. Among the dresses to be (re)designed are



Minnie Mouse, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty and Snow White.

Race for the Cure moves

Jackson, N.J. – After 13 years in Princeton, N.J., the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure was relocated to the grounds of Six Flags Great Adventure. The event held on Oct. 14 was expected to draw 20,000 participants and spectators. After the race, all racers were given the opportunity to enter the park at half price. Five dollars of that half price admission went to The Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. The Komen Breast Cancer Foundation raises millions of dollars annually for breast cancer research, patient support, and cancer screening through events like Race for the Cure that are run in the United States and internationally.

Coney Island park to reopen?



Brooklyn, N.Y. – Many theme parks across the country have closed up shop for the season. Likewise, Astroland Amusement Park at Coney Island, home of the famous Cyclone roller coaster, closed its gates for the season, but uncertainty looms for the 2008 season. The property was sold to a development company in 2006. Several petition campaigns are underway to save the classic park. The Cyclone turned 80 years old in 2007. It is a New York City Historic Landmark and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Hard Rock Park to feature Led Zeppelin coaster

Myrtle Beach, S.C. – The Hard Rock is famous for its burgers and rock n' roll memorabilia in its cafes. In 2008, the company hopes this popular formula can translate to the amusement park arena with Hard Rock Park, currently under construction in Myrtle Beach. The centerpiece will be Led Zeppelin – The Ride. The surviving members of Led Zeppelin had input on the feel and design of the ride.

The roller coaster will plunge riders 150 feet with "Whole 'lotta Love" blasting through a sound system in each car. Check out construction progress via a live Web cam and photo galleries at hardrockpark.com.

Free food for the second year

West Mifflin, Pa. – Kennywood Park, outside Pittsburgh, held its annual Phantom Free Food Frenzy on Sept. 22. Guests lined up at most of their favorite food stands around the park and received free food from 7 to 11 p.m. This is the second year for the promotion.

Water resort planned

Kansas City, Kan. – The Schlitterbahn Company, famous for its Texas water parks, announced Turner Construction as the contractor of its \$750 million Schlitterbahn Vacation Village in Kansas City, Kan. The water resort plans miles of man-made rivers interconnecting lodging, shopping, a year-round water park and family entertainment center. Schlitterbahn favorites such as the Master Blaster water coaster and the Torrent River are planned. The resort is slated to open in the summer of 2009.

Lego Christmas Tree lit

Carlsbad, Calif. – Legoland California's 245,000 Lego block, 30-foot-tall Christmas tree was to be lit in a ceremony on Nov. 26 to kick off their 8th Annual Holiday "Block" Party. New to this year's celebration is the Holidays Around the World Lego mosaic.

Tall tower ride planned in U.K.

Birmingham, U.K.

– Pettifer Estates announced plans for a vertical amusement attraction planned for 2010. The VTP200 will be a 200-meter structure, the fourth tallest tower in the U.K. It will feature spectacular views for up to 33 miles and will have thrill rides and activities. Project leader Charles Pettifer said, "The combination of static and moving observation decks, family rides and attractions and high adrenaline thrills makes VTP200 a truly unique attraction."





My wife Kelly and I make monthly trips to Walt Disney World with our son, Micah. We were taking a ride on the Backlot Tour at Disney-MGM Studios. Kelly is a big picture nut and loves to take pictures any time she gets a chance. She was just trying to get a picture of me and my son in front of the explosions in Catastrophe Canyon.

After she took the picture, she started laughing and I asked her what was so funny. She has always said I have a bit of a devilish side to me ... and I think this photo proves it!

*Daniel Jones
Jacksonville, FL*

Got a photo from Orlando that tells a story?

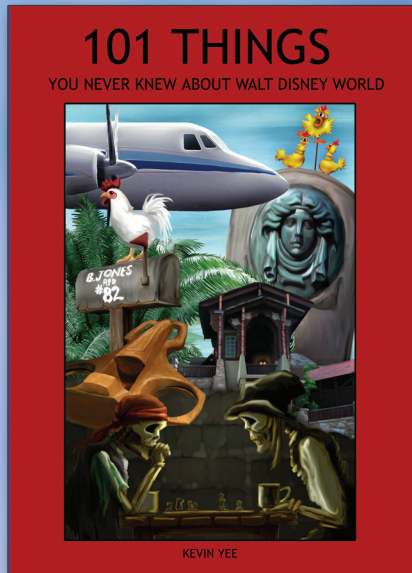
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INDEPENDENT DISNEY BOOKS

BY AUTHOR KEVIN YEE

Enjoy trivia, insider tributes, and historical facts about Walt Disney World? Kevin Yee has spent twenty years working in, researching, and publishing about Disney theme parks.

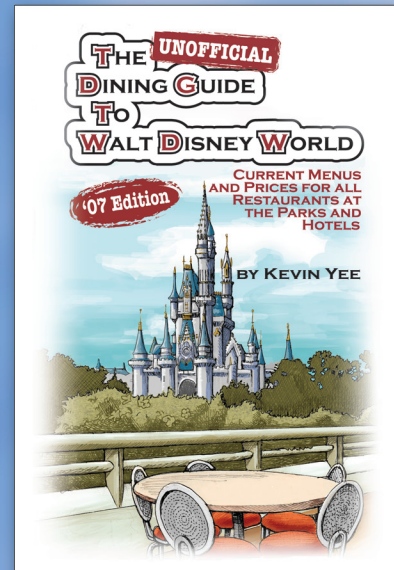


“101 Things You Never Knew About Walt Disney World” explores the many hidden tributes and references to bygone attractions that populate the theme parks. The individual 101 Things referenced by the title are all items you can actually point to at the parks, so that the book provides a kind of walking tour of the parks that yields a glimpse of the deeper history percolating below the surface.

“The Unofficial Dining Guide to Walt Disney World” is an indispensable reference tool for vacationers in Orlando, bringing you all the menus and individual prices from restaurants around Walt Disney World, including parks, hotels, and even Downtown Disney.

FEATURES

- Updated several times a year
- Actual dollar amounts, not approximations
- Index of menu items at each park
- Index of nearby restaurants off-property



Kevin Yee is also the author of three books about Disneyland, the most recent being Mouse Trap (available in 2008), an intimate recounting of what a decade as a front-line worker at Disneyland looks like.

*All books are on sale at Amazon.com or your local bookstore.
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